

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Phoebe Dolan and I am a resident of Belfast, Maine. I represent Maine Youth Power, a youth-led youth movement building power to win human dignity, equity, access and a livable future across rural and suburban Maine.

I am here today opposing **LD 1704: An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex.**

Over the past 3 years Maine Youth Power has supported a student-led campaign to expand bathroom access in high schools across Maine by either building or creating gender neutral bathrooms. Gender neutral bathrooms are a right in Maine for all students but they are not always easily available. In a large Maine High School, students may have to walk over 7 minutes to the closest gender neutral restroom. Led by students at over 12 schools in Maine, We won expanded gender neutral bathrooms helping students get the spaces they need so they don't have to be late for class getting to and from the restroom.

These campaigns were well received across Maine, we saw politically conservative districts support student-led Gender neutral bathroom expansion efforts. We saw large groups of students and teachers rally around these efforts and support all students' right to use the bathroom they are most comfortable in.

This law would take that all away, and more. The teenage years are challenging enough in school already without adults fighting in the courts and the legislature over who can use which bathroom. During our campaign, we saw first hand how communities are not concerned about children and teenagers using the bathrooms where they feel most comfortable, and there is no reason that should be any different now.

If a bill like this were to pass all teenage girls, both cisgender and transgender, would be subject to scrutiny of their bodies. Can you imagine the type of stress and trauma this would cause ALL girls at a time where body image is so volatile.

We cannot say we are supporting young women and young people and pass a law that would bring an increased institutionalized eye over the bodies of young women.

Please vote **ought not to pass** on LD1704.

Thank you for listening  
Phoebe Dolan