



Jeffrey Timberlake
Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 1002 "An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the
Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate"
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
May 8, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and member of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Jeff Timberlake and I represent Senate District 17. I am before you today to support LD 1002, "An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate."

As a co-sponsor of this bill, I believe firmly that this legislation provides a reasonable and respectful framework for how our public schools handle student identification.

LD 1002 is not about denying anyone's identity. Rather, it is about ensuring that public institutions operate under clear, legally grounded guidance. This bill establishes that a student will be referred to by the name and gender listed on the official birth record submitted at enrollment, unless and until a parent or guardian provides written permission or legal documentation reflecting a change.

This approach respects families and ensures that decisions around how a child is identified at school remain in the hands of those legally and emotionally responsible for their well-being: **their parents or guardians**. It protects educators too, by removing uncertainty and giving them a clear and lawful way for how to address students in the classroom.

Let me be clear: this bill doesn't ban anything. If a parent wants their child to be called something else or identified differently, all they need to do is put it in writing or go through the legal process. What it *does* stop is the growing trend of schools bypassing parents and making subjective decisions on deeply personal matters involving children.

We have a duty to draw a firm line. Schools should not be allowed to socially transition minors without parental consent. LD 1002 is a simple, reasonable safeguard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee * Government Oversight Committee
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