

Petra Doan, Phippsburg Maine

May 8 2025

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

Thank you for the chance to speak before this Committee.

I am Dr. Petra Doan, Professor Emerita of Urban and Regional Planning currently living in the Town of Phippsburg. I attend Brunswick Friends Meeting (Quaker)

I speak in opposition to all the bills under consideration by this committee today. Schools are dangerous places to be openly transgender. In the most recent (2022) national survey of transgender individuals, more than 80% of adults and 60% of 16 and 17 year-old respondents were mistreated during their K-12 years, experiencing verbal harassment, physical attacks, online bullying, or being denied the use of restrooms or locker rooms matching their gender identity. We MUST draw the line between claims of “perceived” harm from people who don’t like transgender individuals and the actual victims of violence and harassment. (see excerpt attached).

I am a transgender woman who transitioned in 1998 at Florida State University. At the time I was told that I must submit all required legal documentation in order to use the women’s rest room, so I complied and had no problems for 25 years until the state legislature decided to play politics with my identity and that of countless others by changing the longstanding requirements for bathroom use. Rather than risk arrest for simply using a bathroom, I retired and moved to the state of Maine where my wife’s family have been long time residents.

I urge you NOT to follow Florida’s blatantly political example of using the transgender population as a device to make a few political points. People’s lives and livelihoods are at stake.

LD 868 would ban transgender students (and possibly faculty members) from using the bathrooms and other facilities that align with their gender identity. From my own experience I know how inhumane and cruel such a sudden change would be for the students and educational staff in this state.

Please refrain from political grand-standing and take action today to protect the health and safety of your transgender citizens by voting against all of these bills.

Thank You!

Excerpt from: Preliminary results from *United States Transgender Survey (2022)* with 27,715 respondents from across the US conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality

Citation: James, S.E., Herman, J.L., Durso, L.E., & Heng-Lehtinen, R. (2024). *Early Insights: A Report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*. National Center for Transgender Equality, Washington, DC.

Experiences In Restrooms

Four percent (4%) of respondents were denied access to a restroom in a public place, at work, or at school in the last 12 months.

In the last 12 months, 6% of respondents had been verbally harassed, physically attacked, or experienced unwanted sexual contact when accessing or using a restroom.

Harassment and Violence

Nearly one in ten (9%) respondents reported that they were denied equal treatment or service in the last 12 months because of their gender identity or expression.

Nearly one-third (30%) of respondents reported that they were verbally harassed in the last 12 months because of their gender identity or expression.

More than one-third (39%) of respondents reported that they were harassed online in the last 12 months because of their gender identity or expression.

Three percent (3%) of respondents reported that they were physically attacked in the last 12 months because of their gender identity or expression.

Experiences at School

This section includes some data for 16- and 17-year-old respondents.

More than three-quarters of adult respondents (80%) and nearly two-thirds of 16- and 17-year-old respondents (60%) who were out or perceived as transgender in K-12 experienced one or more form of mistreatment or negative experience, including verbal harassment, physical attacks, online bullying, being denied the ability to dress according to their gender identity/expression, teachers or staff refusing to use chosen name or pronouns, or being denied the use of restrooms or locker rooms matching their gender identity