

Lesley Andersen
Saco
LD 1002

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Lesley Andersen, I'm a resident of Saco, and I am here today as a Mainer and educator.

I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

LD 1002 would force schools to deny a student's identity unless their family or the courts approve. That strips agency away from some of our most vulnerable youth. As a teacher, I am deeply concerned about the effects this will have on trans and non-binary students—especially those who do not have affirming families. As a woman, I know the pain of being silenced, of having your identity debated by others. Let's not put educators in the cruel position of having to misgender students. Let's affirm them instead.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you