

Heather Beers
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Dr. Heather Beers and I'm a resident of Rockland Maine. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee. As a educator I know the harm that discriminatory legislation will cause to already vulnerable community of transgender students in Maine and the wedge it will place in the relationship these students have with the adults they interact with. Schools must provide a supportive environment where the human rights of their students are protected and uplifted. The distrust and damage that invasively discriminating against transgender students will cause will be irreparable to the learning experience for transgender students and cisgender students alike. All students deserve privacy, equal access to extracurricular activities and the ability to trust the adults that are entrusted with their learning in school. A safe learning environment is non-negotiable for the children of Maine. 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!