

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for your time.

My name is Andy Bourassa and I am a voter and resident of Biddeford Maine. **You may have noticed, as I testify before you for the third time, my name was said differently. I used my chosen name - not my birth name, of Andrew.**

You see - the absurdity of refuting pronoun use and not honoring chosen names is rooted in absolute fantasy. More of us use chosen names than do not. How many Jrs go by their middle name? How many Maine people shorten their name or use letters, like RJ?

Yesterday I found a wallet on the ground at Macy's. I Found the cashier and together we tracked down the owner. They were so happy that I returned their wallet that they tried offering me cash.

Of course I refused because it's not their fault that they lost their wallet.

Anyway the moral of this story is... you do understand the use of They/Them pronouns to refer to a singular person.

Every adult here DOES VERY CLEARLY understand.

Even if you willingly choose to feign ignorance. Kids across the state do this so very well. This is quite literally a BOOMER/generational issue of not adapting to a practice and time that has escaped us, and is rooted in backwards living that our youngest generations are zooming past. My 88 year old grandmother honored my trans child's pronouns everyday until she died this past year. She did that, not because it was easy, but because it was important to her grandson. It honored who he was as a human. She knew she had a choice, just like you with your vote, and she made the right one. Will you?

The purpose of this testimony is to illustrate that each voting member has a choice on these bills. But your decision will be rooted in knowing better because of the facts shared today and the real world examples provided.

The question becomes - will you do better - once you know better.

I ask you to vote. - ought not to pass on all pronoun and chosen name bills seeking to restrict or eliminate this practice. Thank you