

Melody Brimmer
Portland
LD 868

Mel Brimmer
Portland, Maine
May 5, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Mel Brimmer, I'm a lifelong resident of Portland, and I am writing on behalf of trans youth throughout our state, and am therefore in opposition to the bills before the committee today.

I'm a hairstylist who specializes in gender-affirming cuts for folks of all ages, but some of my most special clients are queer and trans youth. These young people are doing the difficult task of showing up to their adolescences as their true selves, with or without the support of their peers, schools and communities.

LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704 all seek to restrict kids from finding places, and participating in activities, where they might find safety and belonging. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection, and these types of bans embolden peers, spectators, and community members to bully and harass students.

It's our task as adults to push back against such proposals that would threaten the safety, happiness and ultimately the futures of Maine's trans youth.

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!