

Meredith Bruskin
Swanville
LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, My name is Meredith Bruskin, I am from Swanville and I am writing in ardent opposition to LD 233 and the subsequent 3 bills that have been bundled together for this hearing. I speak as a Family Nurse Practitioner with a 40 year history in nursing, including as an ER nurse for 12 years. I have seen our gay and trans youth die of suicide too many times in the past, with distraught and shocked families left to face this terrible young loss, all due to a lack of support and the cultural shaming of these young people for their most basic feelings about their own gender identities. We are talking about a very small number of students here, who already face an uphill, often bullied journey in their young lives. That you are being asked to add to this burden for any young innocent student is shameful and dangerous, in my opinion. Please realize that voting for any discrimination that supports separating out students for their own feelings is a slippery slope indeed, and teaches just the opposite of the love and tolerance that any democracy attempts to teach their young citizens. And I fear, will increase the possibility of real harm to any young person struggling with gender identity--by actually rolling back the progress that has been made in this nation in the past decade and a half. Make no mistake, if history is our guide, this will cost young lives. Please vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD233 and all other bills encouraging "legal" discrimination-the life you save may be a child, grandchild, niece or nephew of you or me. Thank you for your kind attention. Sincerely, Meredith Bruskin, FNP