

Rebecca Cohen  
Portland  
LD 1704

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Rebecca Cohen, and I am a math teacher at Deering High School in Portland. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

Deering High School has had challenges with student behavior in the school bathrooms over this year. At various times, we've needed to close bathrooms in some areas of the school or otherwise limit bathroom access because of vaping, vandalism, bullying, cutting class, etc. I can say with 100% confidence that transgender students are not, at all, in any way the issue in our school bathrooms.

This bathroom ban would not help students, teachers, or school administrators address any of the real challenges we face at school. Its only purpose is to make our most vulnerable students feel even less safe and welcome at school.

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