

Hannah DeAngelis
Portland
LD 1002
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Portland, Maine

May 8th, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Hannah DeAngelis, I'm a resident of Portland, I grew up in Readfield, and I am the parent of a 1 year old, and 3 year old. I am here in opposition of all bills before the committee today.

I am opposing these bills as they target a specific group of young people because of their identities and bodies. These bills make schools and teams more unsafe and unwelcoming for all young folks by empowering schools to police gender norms and exclude some young people from teams. I do not want my children to grow up in a community where they can be surveilled for who they are or who an adult thinks they could be.

As a parent, I cannot think of anything more important than my work to create a world where my children are loved and celebrated for who they are and who they will become. As part of this journey I know that sometimes as they grow they will need other adults than their parents to support them, listen to them, be their safe space. Passing LD1002 would specifically violate a students' ability to be who they are at school if their parents do not give permission.

As a young queer person growing up in central Maine attending Maranacook Community High School, having trusted adult relationships and being able to explore my identities inside and outside of school was paramount to feeling celebrated in my community.

As a parent, I know my children will exist in other worlds without me, with relationships I'm not a part of and identities I don't always understand. I want them to be able to explore who they are and have autonomy outside of our relationship. For the empowerment and safety of all students, this bill should fail.

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!"

Hannah DeAngelis
Portland, Maine