

Hannah DeAngelis
Portland
LD 233

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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'm here because of my great love for my trans loved ones and my deep belief that they deserve to exist and thrive in our communities.

I am opposing these bills because they target the identities and bodies of a specific group of young people. These bills make schools and teams more unsafe and more 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 adults other 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. Now 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 without my permission. For the empowerment and safety of all students, LD1002 should fail.

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

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