

James Gendron
Portland
LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is James Gendron, I am a resident of Portland, and I am here to oppose this discriminatory, hateful, bizarre, and stupid legislation.

As a teacher, I have witnessed the horrific impacts of social exclusion and bullying on young people of marginalized identities. It erodes their confidence, contributes to academic disengagement, and, in extreme cases, leads to self-harm and suicide. The NIH has found that "82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth."

These tragedies occur even in states which, like Maine, respect the dignity of trans individuals. However, they are much more common in states which attempt to legislate trans youth out of existence. A peer-reviewed study published last year in the journal *Nature Human Behavior* found that suicide attempts by trans youth increase up to 72% in states which pass anti-trans legislation.

The proposed legislation amounts to a declaration of war against some of the most vulnerable young people in this state. Its pointless cruelty and revolting stupidity can't be overstated. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you.