

Alisha Heal
Kennebunk
LD 1704

Alisha Heal
Kennebunk, Maine
May 8, 2025
LD 1704

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Alisha Heal and I am a resident of Kennebunk Maine, clinical social worker, parent and concerned citizen. I am offering written testimony against LD 1704. I believe all students deserve a safe school environment where adults treat them with dignity and respect, this includes trans students. Restricting trans student's access to bathrooms that align with their gender identity is not only unnecessary but discriminatory and does nothing to protect children. Instead, preventing transgender children in our schools from accessing public facilities consistent with their gender identity only subjects children to harm, further marginalizing this youth demographic. In fact, studies show that transgender and gender nonbinary teenagers face increased risk of sexual assault in schools that prohibit them from using bathrooms and other facilities that are not consistent with their gender identity (study from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health). Our schools are meant to be a safe and positive environment for all children and discriminatory legislation like LD 1704 creates an inequitable culture that can negatively impact the mental health of all students, especially trans youth whose rates of depression and suicide are higher than their peers. In short, trans kids deserve to be treated with the same dignity, respect and joy that fosters healthy, happy lives. As a mother and Mainer who believes we should protect all our children, I urge you to vote against LD 1704.