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LD 1002

When I went to read the text of LD 1002, a prior bill by this identity came up. It was to ensure children received at minimum a 30 minute break for lunch during their school day. That's what the concern used to be: ensuring the comfort and safety of students. Now, students are the playthings of those who wish to oppress trans identities however they can. How far the Maine legislature has strayed from goals of protecting kids' right to get a break and eat their midday meal. Now I stare at a list of bills put forth today, presented under the guise of protecting someone (who knows who?) at the expense of one of the most harassed, oppressed, and victimized identities of today. Trans kids ask something very simple: they ask for no money, no exception, no advantage. They simply ask: call me by a name that makes me feel more comfortable being here.

The retort here is often "but what about the parents' right???" As a product of Maine public schools, I can tell you what parents' rights I saw on display daily that have seared in my mind that simply being a parent does not mean you have your child's best interests at heart and your wisdom as a parent supersedes your child's right to find comfort in their preferred name and pronouns. I saw parents exercising their right to flick cigarettes at the back of their child's head, serve them Mike's Hard Lemonade with dinner in 7th grade, make them wait for the bus without a coat in February, let them be driven away in cars by pedophiles and sex offenders, bully children with disabilities, physically abuse, starve, and neglect. Pardon me if I don't think every parent has their children's best interests at heart and should be trusted to make determinations of whether or not their child gets called by one name or another. I do not think parents at large should be the holder of the key to a child's happiness and comfort in school when there are other adults in their life who may respect that child's autonomy more.