

Chester Jacobs
Southport, Maine
May 7, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Chester Jacobs, and I am a resident of Southport. I am writing in opposition of LD 1002 and other anti-transgender legislation before the committee today.

I am a doctor in training at the University of New England and through my training, I have grown increasingly aware of the dire mental health crisis that is gripping the adolescents in our state. This crisis disproportionately impacts our transgender youths. A 2015 study revealed that over 10% of transgender individuals attempt suicide annually. The 2021 data from the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS), approximately 3.5% of Maine high school students identify as transgender. With an estimated 60,000 high school students statewide, this percentage translates to roughly 2,100 transgender students.

This would indicate that approximately 210 transgender children in our communities statewide are attempting suicide each year. I find this reality deeply troubling and believe we must continue to take meaningful action to uplift and support transgender students in our schools. Bills like LD 1002, restricting the use of pronouns, along with other bills currently under consideration today, would only deepen the marginalization of this vulnerable population and putting young Maine lives at even greater risk.

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,
Chester Jacobs