

Amelia Marstaller
Lewiston
LD 1002

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the committee. My name is Mimi Marstaller. I am a registered voter in Lewiston, and a teacher at Lewiston High School. I am writing in opposition to the bills under consideration today, particularly LD 1002.

I teach many students from other countries. When they come through immigration, many students' names get inadvertently changed. When they arrive in my class, these students request to be called the name that is accurate to their identity. I honor their requests, without requiring documentation to verify the legitimacy of the name.

Can I expect a student to learn in my class if I consistently call them by a name that does not feel accurate to them? No. The same principle applies to trans students, many of whom, by high school, have been going by a chosen name for years. We must preserve the responsibility of teachers to respect student identities, unless we plan to write off a large portion of our students.

Please preserve the law to protect our young people's most important asset -- their sense of identity. Vote "ought not to pass" on LD 1002, and all the bills before you today.