

April 29, 2025

RE: LD1002 – An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate

My name is Douglass Moore, and I live in Sabattus. I am testifying in opposition to LD1002.

****Testimony in Opposition to LD 1002 – The “Deadname Directive” Act**

I am writing in **strong opposition to LD 1002**, a bill that attempts to protect children’s “identification” by ensuring their identities are *ignored*. Specifically, it requires public schools to use only the name and gender on a student’s birth certificate—because what better way to support kids than to pretend they can’t change, grow, or know themselves better than the person who filled out a form in the delivery room?

This bill isn’t about protecting children—it’s about erasing them. It’s about making life harder for transgender and nonbinary students, some of the most vulnerable youth in our state, by ensuring that school—the place they are legally required to go—is also a place where they are officially misgendered and deadnamed every single day.

It tells teachers, counselors, and administrators that even if a child begs to be seen as who they are, the law says: *Nope! Bureaucracy knows best!* It enshrines in law the idea that a birth certificate is more truthful than a human being.

This is cruelty disguised as paperwork. And it’s absurd.

If a kid named William wants to go by Billy, no one blinks. But if Maya wants to go by Max, suddenly we need a legislative task force, a notarized affidavit, and a special session?

LD 1002 doesn’t “protect” anyone. It punishes students for being different. It invites outing, bullying, and shame—all in the name of *order*.

And let’s be honest: if your birth certificate determined your entire identity, half this legislature would be going by “Baby Boy [Last Name]” and wetting themselves during hearings.

Please vote **NO** on LD 1002. Don’t let the government force kids back into closets they already fought their way out of.