

Sarah Shepro
Portland
LD 1002

Honorable members of the judiciary committee,

My name is Sarah Shepro, I'm a resident of Portland. I'm writing to strongly oppose LD1002, and the other anti-trans bills being heard by the committee today. These bills are nothing more than an unjustified attempt to systematically erase trans people.

LD1002 is an absolutely unnecessary bill - there's no reason that the state, or any level of government for that matter, needs to interfere with the gender of children. It breaks my heart to think of the many kids out there who are struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity and do not have supportive, affirming parents, or even any adult in their life who can provide guidance. Whether that kid is "just going through a phase" or they are grappling with their truest selves, they deserve compassion and understanding from the adults around them. That includes respecting their pronouns.

When parents struggle with supporting their kids, many turn to their teachers. Criminalizing support from teachers and other staff at schools would cut off an essential line of support for kids, and make it harder for teachers and others at schools to do their jobs.

LD1002 offers nothing - why fixate on children's gender and pronouns? I can't think of a reason. I wish our legislators would focus on actual issues in Maine, rather than wasting time on restricting rights of our queer community.

Thank you for your time.
Sarah Shepro