

Leanne Snowman

Augusta, Maine

May 9, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Leanne Snowman, and I'm a lifelong resident of Maine, a parent, and a licensed mental health therapist who works primarily with the LGBTQIA+ community. I'm here today to speak in strong opposition to the anti-trans legislation under consideration.

These bills do real harm. As a therapist, I've worked with many transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming clients—and a common thread in their stories is trauma rooted in harassment, bullying, and fear, often beginning in school bathrooms.

I witnessed this firsthand almost 20 years ago at Cony High School. My best friend was trans, and just using the bathroom safely was a daily challenge. He often had to run across campus to find a restroom where he wouldn't be harassed or abused. I remember standing outside bathroom doors and even stalls to protect him. Even with support from friends, he faced relentless bullying—simply for being himself.

Sadly, the same fear and harm persist today. According to The Trevor Project's 2023 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, **46% of transgender and nonbinary youth seriously considered suicide in the past year, and 12% attempted it.** Another **40% of transgender students report being bullied in school** (GLSEN, 2021). These aren't abstract numbers—they represent the lives of kids in our communities.

Passing laws that target trans youth adds to their trauma. But choosing not to pass these bills sends a powerful message: that Maine is a place where all young people—regardless of gender identity—are safe, respected, and valued.

As a mental health professional, I am ethically bound to do no harm. I urge you to do the same. Please reject these harmful bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.

Sincerely,

Leanne Snowman