

Kelsey Thompson
Biddeford, ME
5/7/25

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Kelsey Thompson and I am a resident in Biddeford and I am here on behalf of myself and my fellow teachers. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As an educator, it is my firm belief and duty to accept and respect all students in my classroom. Every day I encourage my students to be the best learners and people they can be, regardless of their background. For many students, school is their place of safety and security and to have this sentiment be altered in any way is absolutely unacceptable. These bills being presented today would do just that. For students who are non-binary or Trans, these bills would rip away their rights and feelings of safety in our schools.

These bans not only embolden spectators, community members and potentially fellow classmates to bully and harass girls by accusing them to be trans but also encourages a policing in adherence to gender norms. These norms have been shown to unfairly scrutinize girls' bodies and affect girls of color even more. In an institution that has been built to encourage the broadening of ideas and perspectives, these bills would only cause fear, distrust and confusion for our students, families and us as educators. Moreover, bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

As a proud teacher in Maine, I am asking you to stand up for what I, and my colleagues, fight for every day, to create a safe and respectful world for our students to grow up in where they can be whoever they want to be.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought no to Pass" on these bills. Thank you,
Kelsey Thompson