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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is River Weinstock I'm a resident of Starks. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

This bill is designed to force public schools to provide a hostile environment for trans youth, a minority group that is under attack for no reason but to further political aims. This bill does not protect student or keep them safe, but instead turns schools into another avenue where students are harassed and cannot be themselves. Studies show that suicide rates among trans youth are greatly lowered when they can use their chosen names and genders. This bill aims to erase the identity of trans youth and punish them for existing. Furthermore, it is almost certain this bill will be used to disproportionately target trans youth and allow their cis peers to be called by nicknames. No child is helped by making school a hostile environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you.