Karen Wyman Hallowell LD 1704

Testimony of Karen Wyman of Hallowell, Maine May 8, 2025

In Opposition to LD 1704: An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Karen Wyman, and I'm a resident of Hallowell. Thank you for considering my testimony in strong opposition to LD 1704 which would prohibit schools from creating policies allowing students to use a bathroom if that bathroom does not correspond to the student's sex assigned at birth.

Policies about appropriate facility use belong to local school administrative districts, not the judiciary committee of the legislature. I am sorry that you must spend your limited and valuable time on bills that are both inappropriate jurisdictionally and odious philosophically.

All children need access to safe facilities, regardless of their gender identity. Insisting on gender essentialist policies is unnecessarily restrictive and an overreach of the scope of this committee, and it's just plain wrong. This is a made-up fear designed to distract from the real and vital issues facing our state.

Please support Maine youth and the appropriate division between state and local control. Please vote against LD 1704.

Sincerely, Karen Wyman