

Faith Barnes
Brunswick
LD 2239

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

My name is Faith Barnes, I'm a resident of Brunswick, and I am a retired clinical social worker who worked with transgender youth. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239.

In my clinical private practice, I worked with several transgender youth. They were each unique individuals who had different interests, desires, and plans for their futures. They wanted to be seen for who they are and to be accepted as that person just like other students in their schools. The proposed ballot measure is an extreme, blanket ban that doesn't fit in Maine communities. The proposal's language is a vague, poorly defined, "one-size-fits all" approach that would be difficult and expensive for schools to implement, likely causing more chaos and distraction for students, and opens huge litigation risks for schools.

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

Sincerely,

Faith Barnes
Retired Clinical Social Worker