

Irene Ellis
Liberty, Maine
LD 2239

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

My name is Irene Ellis, I am a resident of Liberty and parent of a 2-year old child. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239.

As a non-binary parent, I strive to create a home and a world where my child (assigned male at birth) can be respected and accepted for whoever they are and become. It pains me to see that certain individuals have proposed and supported a policy that will exclude transgender students from full participation in school activities and spaces. This would not only discriminate against transgender youth, but would inevitably create a world and culture where our children are taught they won't necessarily be accepted for who they are, that it's okay to exclude others, and that this practice creates a just and fair society. I for one would be devastated if my child grew up in a world where this hypocrisy and the manifestation of it is prevalent, especially if he were to come out as non-binary or transgender later on and realize that there are spaces – educational ones at that – he/she/they is not welcome in. No policy or agenda can truly protect the rights of some if it comes at the price of the rights of others. I sincerely hope that the Judiciary and Maine voters will take these comments to heart and defeat this proposed ballot measure to progress us towards a world that upholds freedom and justice for all. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.