

Nicole Vachon  
Bangor  
LD 2239

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Nicole Vachon and I live in Bangor, Maine.

I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239.

I work with young people every day. The pressures they are under are one's I can't imagine navigating daily. Many young people are feeling more able to live their true, authentic lives as transgender, gender fluid or non-binary. This is not a danger to anyone. The people that are in danger are actually the folks this bill is targeting: transgender youth. This heightens the harassment and physical danger that trans folks have to navigate daily. Just using the bathroom brings up feelings of anxiety and fear, rightfully so. This daily routine of just trying to find a safe place to use the bathroom can create a lifetime of mental health issues. Think about that. Imagine trying to plan out your bathroom visits each day so that you aren't jumped or harassed. This bill is created to harm young people, the very thing it claims to be avoiding.

We have so many issues that need addressing. So much energy has gone into targeting people that are just trying to get through the day. Please spend the time and energy to creating equity within schools so that everyone has a chance to thrive.

Thank you