

Thank you, Mr. Chair, Vice Chair and members of the House Judiciary Committee. It's good to see you all again. As you know, I am Rebecca Hoskins. I'm a lifelong resident of the state and I currently reside in Concord. I've come to speak to you today to urgently oppose SB552. This bill poses great risk of harm to all Granite Staters.

I'm a gender nonconforming person. I can appear to be masculine or feminine presenting depending on my mood. I accept any and all pronouns. I've spoken to this committee and senate committees about my experiences living in New Hampshire with this identity on multiple occasions.

I grew up surrounded by members of the LGBTQ community, primarily in my church. My parents taught me from a very young age that there was nothing wrong or strange in people having different life experiences from me. People could find love in those of the same gender or explore their gender identity and it didn't need to be weird or strange. When I started questioning both my sexuality and gender identity, I was profoundly grateful for the accepting community I was lucky enough to be a part of.

New Hampshire, as a state, has also been very accepting of the LGBTQ community. We were the first state to legalize civil unions in 2008 before legalizing same sex marriage in 2010. Even outside of the small church community, I have always felt safe to be myself inside of New Hampshire, but bills like this make me call this feeling of safety into question.

During a time where there's so much else that demands legislative attention, why do we keep coming back to where people pee? Especially since Governor Ayotte has vetoed similar bills both last year and this one. While there may be much I disagree with Governor Ayotte about, we do agree that everyone deserves the dignity of using the restroom in public spaces. Is this the Live Free Or Die state or not?

This bill, and the other anti-LGBTQ bathroom bans like it, are not about keeping public or private spaces safe. In fact, bills like this make public spaces decidedly less safe. One of the reasons governors Sununu and Ayotte have vetoed bathroom bills in the past is their inability to be enforced. How exactly are you going to stop all trans people from using bathrooms? Even if you believe someone in the bathroom with you might be trans, you could be wrong. This was very much the case last year in Massachusetts when it was reported a woman using the bathroom in a Boston hotel was asked to leave the bathroom by a male security guard.

(<https://www.advocate.com/news/cisgender-woman-gender-questioned-restroom>)

Let's just think about that for a moment. Someone made a snap judgement about another person's gender and reported them for using the restroom. Then, a male security guard walked into the women's bathroom, banged on the stall, and demanded the woman leave the bathroom. As it turned out, the person who made that snap judgement was wrong and that security guard had just harassed a cisgender woman. Are we about to make bathrooms in New Hampshire the wild west? Safe for no one? That story makes me fearful that something similar could happen to me if I were to use the bathroom while wearing a suit.

Furthermore, this bill only has a vague understanding of actual biological sex. Intersex people use the bathroom, play sports, and potentially go to prison. Bills like these always erase

the existence of intersex people. If this bill became law, where would intersex inmates be housed? What about intersex students who want to play sports?

I understand it can be hard to understand a community you're not a part of and don't have a connection to. However, that lack of comprehension doesn't give you the right to legislate a minority population out of existence. Such attempts will not be successful. Gay, queer, trans, and gender nonconforming people will continue to exist despite all attempts to define our existence. It is shameful that you continue engaging in legislative attacks like this one. These bills are solutions looking for problems, a sentiment that has been echoed by Republican Governors Ayotte and Sununu when they both vetoed prior bathroom bans.

These repeated attacks seem purposeful and are chilling. The Granite Post quoted Travis Corcoran, State Representative for Weare saying the quiet part out loud on social media: "The point of Republican legislation in New Hampshire is not just to change the laws, it's to demoralize the Left...to encourage them to leave."

The LGBTQ community doesn't cause harm to the Granite State, or any state. The sudden and aggressive attempted legislative action against us makes no sense. Can we not simply coexist as what we really are to each other: neighbors in community? It's time you listen to your constituents and legislate something that actually needs attention. Like the housing crisis.

Our state is facing many *actual* problems at the moment, and trans people using bathrooms, playing sports in schools, and being in prison aren't any of them. Thank you for your time