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Testimony to the Portland City Council
In support of the City of Portland's proposed amicus brief in *G.G. vs. Gloucester County School Board*

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Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members:

My name is Natalie Lerner and I am a college student and a lifelong resident of Portland. Today, I am here on behalf of the ACLU of Oregon, where I am an outreach intern. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today to encourage the City of Portland to file an amicus brief in support of Gavin Grimm in the U.S. Supreme Court Case *G. G. vs. Gloucester County School Board*.

Gavin Grimm, a transgender boy, just wanted to use the men's restroom. Now, the Supreme Court will decide whether he can. It is essential that we as a city stand with Gavin and express to the Supreme Court our belief in justice and fairness.

Transgender people are part of our communities, our neighborhoods, and our schools. They need to be able to use the restroom, just like everyone else, without being singled out for discrimination and unequal treatment. The refusal to allow transgender students to use the same facilities used by other students in accordance with their gender identity violates Title IX, a federal law against sex discrimination in education. This type of discrimination also impairs students' ability to learn, grow, and thrive in the school environment.

Allowing students to use single-sex facilities that match their gender identity is the best approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, both transgender and non-transgender alike. Many transgender students face hostility, discrimination and bullying. Forcing a transgender or gender non-conforming student to use a separate restroom from everyone else only adds to the potential for bullying and mistreatment.

Portland has been and continues to be a leader in LGBTQ+ justice and gender justice, and for that, we at the ACLU of Oregon say, thank you. Today, we ask the City of Portland to sign on to an amicus brief in support of Gavin Grimm, and voice our support for all students, regardless of their gender identity.

I urge your support and, unless you have any questions, I thank you for your time.