

Sloane Paul
Orono
LD 1040

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am here today to express my support of LD 1040: “An Act to Require Reimbursement for Gender-affirming Care for MaineCare Members.”

My name is Sloane Paul and I moved to Orono, Maine two years ago.

I believe this care needs to be protected. Gender-affirming healthcare, which is supported by every major medical organization in the United States, is being targeted by a coordinated, national campaign that seeks to remove transgender Americans from public life. According to data from the 2021 Maine Transgender Community Survey, 27% of trans-Mainers are on MaineCare. This represents roughly 3 to 4 thousand Mainers, about 70% of whom indicate they access gender-affirming care.

As a Mainer, being able to be openly non-binary and find acceptance in my community is a huge part of my life. It’s important to be able to be proud of who I am without fearing for my safety. While I am not actively seeking out gender-affirming care, I want to know that if I do in the future I will have affordable access to it. I fear for other trans and queer people in my community losing access to gender-affirming care. It’s as much of a right as any other health treatment and could greatly impact the LGBTQ+ community. I love living here and I don’t want our state to end up like others with restrictions on gender-affirming care.

Please support LD 1040 to require reimbursement for gender-affirming care for MaineCare members. Thank you for your time.