



May 5, 2023

Representative Osher
Senator Carney
Committee on Judiciary
State House
Augusta ME 04332

Re: LD 1735: An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Representative OSHER, Senator CARNEY, and Representatives MILLIKEN, MOONEN, SALISBURY, SHEEHAN, and WORTH of Ellsworth:

The Maine Psychological Association (MePA) is a membership organization representing psychologists in Maine who work in private practice, at Maine's colleges and universities, and in the public sector. Our mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health and human welfare.

MePA supports LD 1735: An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care, in a general sense. As an association for psychologists, we agree with the importance of protecting gender affirming healthcare. The American Psychological Association (**APA**), as well as other **healthcare** organizations, (e.g., American Counseling Association, World Professional Association for Transgender **Health**) have established empirically supported practice guidelines that encourage clinicians to use **gender-affirming** practices when addressing **gender** identity issues (ACA, 2010; **APA**, 2015; Coleman et al., 2012).

We are available to provide additional input if requested.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Pratt".

Jamie Pratt, PsyD
President