

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. I support LD 1735 an act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care.”

My name is Leo, and I am an out-of-state student at the University of Maine, and I am writing to show support for LD 1735 “An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care”.

I was able to start gender-affirming care in Maine without fear of persecution for doing such. I was able to be a student, learn, and not fear a lack of access to my medication. Currently, not all students are able to say the same. An out-of-state student from Missouri who needs this sort of medical care should not be risking arrest while in the state of Maine, where it is completely legal.

Many of the anti-transgender bills that have been passed in other states target minors. The younger freshmen arrive at the university at 17 years old, meaning that they will be affected by these bills in their home states. However, LD 1735 will prevent this from happening.

Maine has been known and is a leader in welcoming queer people nationally. This bill is a reasonable next step in continuing this path of leadership and equality. Because of this state’s leadership, this will signal to other states that are friendly to transgender people to also create a sanctuary for those that need it.

Maine is a great state, and this will only make it better. Please vote in support of LD 1735 to protect those that are already being marginalized by their homes, and allow Maine to be their new home without fear of criminalization.