

Henry Jacques
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LD 227

Dear Co-Chairs Bailey and Perry, and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. Thank you for the chance to share my views on this bill. I ask that you support LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in Maine.

A member of Generation Z, I have grown up at a time where more people in the U.S. than ever before are seeking gender affirming care. Many friends of mine have found transitioning to be something that not only puts them at peace with their internal thoughts, but has greatly improved their health and quality of life.

States banning gender affirming care are denying people access to a form of healthcare that has the potential to change and even save lives. Combined with other anti-LGBTQ legislation, transgender individuals are facing increasing threats across the nation. This was the recent case with Nex Benedict, a genderfluid 16-year old student who was killed by those emblazoned by Oklahoma's anti trans laws.

This bill provides Maine the chance to join other states in protecting members of our community by ensuring they do not have to be afraid of losing access to crucial medical care, a worry no one should have to experience. As recommended by a close friend, including a requirement for therapists and similar providers to use one's chosen pronouns would be greatly appreciated.

I implore you to vote in the affirmative on LD 227. Thank you for your time.