

Bryhanah Esposito

Milbridge

LD 227

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and esteemed Members of the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer public comment on this important piece of legislation.

My name is Bryhanah E. Esposito, I am a lifelong resident of Milbridge, ME who currently resides part-time in Portland, ME. I am an enrolled Master's of Public Health (MPH) graduate student at the University of Southern Maine and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.

Everyone should be able to get the medical care they need in Maine. Medical experts widely agree, reproductive health care and gender-affirming care is life-saving medical care. With increasing attacks on reproductive and gender-affirming care across the country, Maine lawmakers must act to protect health care providers alongside patient access and rights to care in Maine. Multiple other states, as well as Washington, D.C. have taken action to pass shield laws that protect the standards of professional care already legally offered within their state borders. Despite the written testimony submitted by other Maine residents, I do not believe LD 227 aims to protect or otherwise assist in sexual crimes, child trafficking, kidnapping, or otherwise malpractice by health care providers. Nor does this bill attempt to prevent law enforcement from pursuing crimes within the state of this nature. LD 227 helps protect health care professionals from politically motivated litigation from agencies/actors outside the state of Maine.

Mainers deserve to know that their government representatives care about equitable healthcare access and ultimately the privacy of its residents as patients and as providers. We also should be able to hold faith in our representatives' support of the operations of law enforcement agencies, court systems, medical personnel, and their own abilities in governance in the state of Maine. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 227 and protect our individual and public health, in addition to our medical professional community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bryhanah Esposito

Bryhanah Esposito
Milbridge
LD 227