

Finn Teach  
Portland, Maine  
May 2, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Finn Teach, and I live in Portland. **I am writing in strong opposition to LD 380: *An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services*.**

As a transgender person, I know how critical access to gender-affirming care can be. LD 380 would repeal existing protections and procedures that allow minors aged 16 and older to access medically necessary hormone therapy with the support of their doctors. This bill is not about safety—it is about control. It would strip away young people’s ability to get the care they need, and punish the providers who are working within the law to help them.

Let’s be absolutely clear: gender-affirming care is not experimental. It is evidence-based, supported by every major medical and mental health association in the U.S., and provided in accordance with established clinical guidelines. For youth, this care is only offered after careful assessment, and usually after months or years of evaluation, family involvement, and counseling. LD 380 would interfere in that careful, individualized process with a blunt political tool—and the consequences would be devastating.

Young people know who they are. Denying them access to care doesn’t make them any less trans—it just makes them more likely to suffer. The Trevor Project’s 2023 National Survey found that transgender youth who had access to gender-affirming hormone therapy had significantly lower rates of depression and suicide attempts than those who didn’t. This is literally life-saving care.

LD 380 would also harm Maine’s health care system by repealing the state’s Shield Law, which protects doctors and providers who offer gender-affirming care lawfully under Maine law from being targeted by out-of-state legal attacks. If we repeal those protections, we open up Maine providers to harassment, lawsuits, and even criminal charges simply for doing their jobs. We will lose providers, strain already limited resources, and create a chilling effect on health care across the board.

Maine has chosen to stand up for patients and providers in the face of rising national hostility toward trans people. LD 380 would reverse that progress. It would punish families, young people, and health care workers for seeking or providing care that is legal, appropriate, and essential.

This bill does not protect children. It puts them at greater risk. It does not protect parental rights—it overrides them. And it does not represent the values of our state, which has long stood for fairness, compassion, and self-determination.

I urge you to reject LD 380. Let doctors do their jobs. Let families make informed decisions. And let young people get the care they need to grow up healthy, supported, and safe.

Thank you.

Finn Teach