

Valerie Todd
Portland Friends Meeting
LD 380

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story with you. My name is Valerie Todd, I'm a resident of Portland, and I'm here as a lifelong Christian, a mother, and a Mainer.

As a Christian, I am inspired by the Genesis story of creation. Just as God created day and night, He also created dawn and dusk, in-between times that are especially beautiful. Just as God created the land and the waters, He also created beaches, in-between places that are especially beautiful. Similarly, God created male and female, and people across a gender spectrum. We are all made in God's image, and my faith compels me to speak out when vulnerable people are being targeted and harmed.

As a mother of children in Maine schools, I want my children - and all children - to be able to get the medical care they need. We all know that Maine's healthcare infrastructure is already strained. This would allow out-of-state criminal prosecutions for providing standard-of-care health care as legally allowed in our state. LD 380 would especially cause great harm to health care providers. I want to make it easier and safer for health care providers to give care to folks here, not harder and more dangerous.

As a Mainer, I believe we can be leaders in standing up for our state's right to make our own laws, and not bow to the national political agenda. Passing these laws rewards the federal government's bullying tactics and opens the door to further attacks on Mainers' civil rights. It won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

Thank you for being courageous in defending the civil rights of all Mainers. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on these bills. Thank you.