

Erica Paul  
Portland  
LD 1337

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Erica Paul. I am a resident of Portland.

I am writing to express my opposition to bills LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. Many of my loved ones are trans and nonbinary adults who would have benefited from access to gender-affirming care in their youth. According to research by the Stanford University School of Medicine, when transgender people can access hormones as teenagers, they often experience better mental health outcomes as adults. Additionally, there are consequences to not treating gender dysphoria, including severe depression and suicide. With the stakes this high, there is no reason to create more barriers to gender-affirming care for teens.

If these laws pass, trans athletes and teens, two groups that are already incredibly vulnerable, would lose protections and be at higher risk for mental health crises.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on these bills. Thank you!