

Testimony of Sarah Cushman, Resident of Portland – May 8, 2025

Against: LD 380: An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with the Committee.

My name is Sarah Cushman, I am a resident of Portland, and I'm a Christian mom and member of Portland Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

I oppose LD 380 and I am submitting testimony in opposition of all the bills before the committee today.

Maine state law has allowed doctors and patients to safely give and receive the care they need.

As someone born and raised in Maine, **our state has to stand up against the national political agenda that is interfering with our rights to make our own laws.** We are an independent and free-thinking state.

Passing this would reward the federal government's bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights, but **it won't make Maine more safe or better for anyone.** You cannot let this happen on your watch.

And as a Christian woman and as a mom of teen daughters - and as a family with younger transgender and non-binary friends and family members - **this bill would grievously impact older teens who know "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13** In addition, **it leaves these young people even more vulnerable to harassment and potential violence** based on gender identity.

Finally, **this bill would also cause great harm to health care providers.** Repealing Maine's Shield Law would subject Maine's already-strained healthcare infrastructure to out-of-state criminal prosecutions for providing standard-of-care health care, as legally allowed in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee, **and for doing what's best for all our children, and all the people of Maine** this legislative session.

I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on LD 380 and every bill before the committee today.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cushman