

Allison Brzezinski
Camden
LD 380

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. My name is Allison Brzezinski (they/them), a trans/non-binary resident of Camden, Maine and I am here on behalf of my community. I am writing to share my opposition to all of the proposed bills that are intended to roll back protections for trans individuals.

Trans individuals 16-18 years of old should retain the legal capacity to consent to hormone replacement therapy that aligns with their gender identity. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) can be a lifesaving measure for trans people who have already transitioned socially. As a trans adult, I am pursuing gender-affirming top surgery and a hysterectomy so that my physical body better aligns with who I am. HRT can be a big step in supporting a young person's gender journey allowing them to see physical changes in their body that match the way they view themselves and the way they want others to perceive them.

Removing these protections from trans teens is not only cruel, it is harmful. The catalyst for this legislation is based on bogus science, because regardless of what the current presidential administration may believe and promote, gender is real and different from biological sex. This legislation is also discriminatory as it only targets trans teens and not cis-gendred teens who are looking to make physical changes that support their physical and mental well-being. We are still only beginning to understand the importance that gender plays in the well being of individuals, especially our young people. By implementing legislation such as this, the state would be writing prejudice into law. This is purely bigoted ideology being presented as fact in the hopes of becoming policy.

Being trans is not a choice, so it is essential that we legislate support and inclusion for trans individuals for the benefit of trans youth and their cis peers. Anything less than that is dangerous.

This bill should not be allowed to pass. It diminishes human dignity from youth who are simply being themselves by making reversible changes to their bodies supported by hormones that help them feel more at home in their physical form. The bill would have a devastating impact on the mental health of our young people. It is a quantifiable, proven fact that anti-trans legislation, such as this, has led to up to a 72% increase in suicide attempts amongst trans youth. If passed, this legislation would likely lead to an increase in this already daunting number for self harm and attempted suicide.

Nothing good can come from this legislation being passed in a trans refuge state at a time when anti-trans legislation is spreading at an exceedingly dangerous rate. Maine has been and should remain a state where trans individuals of all ages and backgrounds feel protected. Passing this legislation would be a regression for the state as it would no longer be protecting some of our most vulnerable community members. As a 36 year old trans/non-binary person, I have felt relatively safe knowing what protections have been made into law for my community.

If this legislation passes, my day to day life as a trans person will change dramatically as it will lead to further bigotry and vitriol towards the trans community. I shudder to think about the ripple effect this reversal in trans protections will mean for trans people of all ages.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills as they will have a devastating impact

for trans and cis students, youth and adults. Thank you!