Julie Lewis Rockland LD 380

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

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to LD 380 - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services.

I would ask that you trust the professionals. Politicians have absolutely no business crafting laws designed to violate the sacred trust of individuals and their health care providers, impeding the ability to make informed decisions regarding health care. I ask that you trust the American Academy of Pediatrics, the doctors, the nurses, the mental health professionals, the educators, the Maine Principals Association, the teachers and the coaches. Trust the children and their families. Most of all, trust the scientists. All of these professionals should and do support children – ALL children. The AAP states "There is strong consensus among the most prominent medical organizations worldwide that evidence-based, gender-affirming care for transgender children and adolescents is medically necessary and appropriate. It can even be lifesaving. The decision of whether and when to start gender-affirming treatment, which does not necessarily lead to hormone therapy or surgery, is personal and involves careful consideration by each patient and their family." Trust the professionals.

Thank you for your consideration.