

## Written Testimony in Opposition to LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380

Submitted to: Judiciary and Health and Human Services Committees

From: Elizabeth Sekera

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Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Sekera, and I write to strongly oppose **LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380**, three proposals that pose a direct threat to the health, safety, and civil rights of transgender individuals in Maine.

I bring over **20 years of experience in the delivery of gender-affirming health care**, including 10 years running a Federally Qualified Health Center that served transgender patients from across the U.S. I now work with Medicaid enrollees to ensure access to gender-affirming services. I am also a **parent of two children in the Bangor school system** and a lifelong Mainer committed to fairness and inclusion.

These bills are dangerous:

- **LD 1337** would exempt privately run emergency shelters from anti-discrimination laws, allowing them to deny housing to transgender women. Access to shelter is not a political issue—it is a basic human need. Turning people away based on their identity puts them at **higher risk of assault, exposure, and trauma**.
- **LD 1432** would remove “gender identity” from the Maine Human Rights Act. This sends a message that transgender people are not worthy of explicit protection under the law. While courts may interpret sex discrimination broadly, **stripping this language opens the door to legal uncertainty and intentional discrimination**—in housing, employment, health care, and public accommodations.
- **LD 380** would revoke the current process that allows some minors (ages 16–18) to consent to gender-affirming hormone therapy, requiring parental consent. This creates an unnecessary barrier for youth who are already navigating a vulnerable and often unsupported journey. **Medical decisions should remain between patients, their families, and licensed providers—not dictated by political fear.**

This is not just a policy discussion—it’s a deeply personal one. My **partner of 24 years, who passed away last year, was a transgender man**. His transition was a profound gift to witness. It allowed him to live fully, with confidence and authenticity. That experience showed me just how transformative access to gender-affirming care can be. These bills would rob others of that same opportunity.

**All major medical associations**—including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics—affirm the importance of gender-affirming care. Limiting access or erasing protections puts real lives in jeopardy.

Maine should be a place where everyone is treated with dignity, compassion, and fairness. **Please vote NO** on LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Sekera  
Bangor, ME