

Ethan Nightingale
Wells
LD 380

Ethan Nightingale
Wells, Maine
May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for giving the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Ethan Nightingale, I'm a resident of Wells, Maine, and I am in opposition of the bills before the committee today. I came to the realization that I was trans later in life, at 23. I didn't have the same experience that many others had where they figured it out earlier in highschool, but it makes me proud to see people younger than me be so in tune with who they are as people and who they feel their best selves are. Allowing LD 380 to pass will severely stifle this exploration of self and have lasting impacts on people who are actively going through a complicated and confusing part of their lives. Informed consent and the ability for minors to consent without parental involvement allows for a vulnerable group of people to access the care they need to feel right in their bodies on the merits of their own understanding of how hormone replacement therapy works, or if a doctor deems that hormone therapy is in the best interest to the mental and physical development of the person. Requiring parental consent forces 16-18 year olds to be at the mercy of their parents for something they likely do not understand especially if they are cis gendered. 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