

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

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and other members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Jess Knox. I live in Portland today, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 380.

LD 380 aims to revoke sections established by Public Law 2023, chapter 648, which safeguard individuals who are seeking or offering gender-affirming health care services. This law specifically targets a vulnerable group, undermines Maine's advancements in fostering inclusivity, and opposes the principles of equality and respect that our state champions.

As a parent, I recognize how crucial it is to foster environments where everyone feels secure, supported, and appreciated. Transgender individuals, just like everyone else, should have the chance to access essential healthcare services without worrying about discrimination or legal consequences. LD 380 would enforce exclusion, conveying that transgender individuals do not belong in our community state.

Proponents of LD 380 argue that it is necessary to ensure safety and fairness. This is the same manufactured rhetoric that we see across the country. It's the argument that appears in fragile podcasts and online chat rooms. However, there is no credible evidence to suggest that protecting transgender individuals' access to health care services compromises safety or fairness. These arguments are based on fear and misinformation, not facts.

Supporters of this bill are, in effect, advocates for intentional harm. They directly disregard the research at hand. Studies consistently reveal that transgender individuals experience elevated levels of discrimination, mental health challenges, and suicidal tendencies. Policies that ostracize and stigmatize this group only intensify these problems. Enacting LD 380 puts some of our most vulnerable community members at serious risk of harm. It is the wrong choice for Maine.

In closing, let's stand together and reject LD 380. This bill goes against our state's dedication to equality, doesn't have solid evidence behind it, and could genuinely harm the well-being of transgender individuals. I encourage you to vote against this bill and, instead, to champion policies that support and uplift every member of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Your Name]
[Your Town], Maine