

Zoe Solak
Berwick
LD 380

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May 8th, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My legal name is Zoe Solak but I go by Zander. I am a resident of Berwick Maine. I am here in opposition to the bills put forward today.

Myself and many of my friends would not be standing here today without the life changing gender affirming care we received as a minor. Transgender children who lack the support of their community are much more likely to take their own lives. The journal of Natural Human Behavior published a study last year that showed a 7-72% increase in suicide attempts in genderqueer teenagers in the years following the passing of anti-trans laws in 19 states. The ability to seek the care that they need on their own saves lives. I believe the rolling back of this and the many other protections on the committee's table today will cost the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Maine.

As a life long Mainer I prided myself on the states ability to look after its own, and provide support to its elderly, poor, and queer communities. However these anti-trans bills will show that our state is willing to give up support to one of these vulnerable communities so long a minority of its population is hateful enough.

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!