

Terrence  
Auburn  
LD 380

To the Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Terrence, I'm 18 years old, and I live in Auburn, Maine. I'm writing to strongly oppose the bill that would take away access to gender-affirming hormones for 16- and 17-year-olds without parental consent. I was able to get the healthcare I needed because of the law you passed in 2023—and it changed my life.

When I was 15, I became homeless. My relationship with my legal guardian broke down, partly because she didn't support me being trans or getting gender-affirming care. My birth parents are dead. Even though Maine already allows teens like me to get general healthcare without a parent, no provider would give me gender-affirming care until this law passed. They were afraid of being held liable. Once the law was in place, I finally got the care I needed.

After that, everything started to get better. I found housing where I could be myself—where being trans wasn't treated like a problem. I felt safer, more confident, and more at home in my body. For the first time, I could imagine a future. And with that stability, my focus in school came back. I had fallen a year behind while I was living on the street, but now I'm on track to graduate this spring.

Even my relationship with my guardian has gotten a little better—because without the fight over my identity and healthcare, we've been able to keep talking. That wouldn't have happened without this law.

If the world thinks a kid is old enough to survive on their own, then that kid should be able to make decisions about their healthcare too. It's my body. It should be my choice. And if someone kicked me out, why should they still get a say?

Please don't take this away from the next kid who needs it.

Thank you,  
Terrence  
Auburn, Maine