

Leo Whitcomb  
Wells, Maine  
LD 380

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Leo Whitcomb, I am a resident of Wells, Maine and I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

So many LGBTQ+ youth discover their true selves at a young age, and trans youth on the older end, 15-17, may want to take the next steps to transition but may not have the support of their parents. With this bill, it would prevent trans youth with unsupportive parents from receiving the gender affirming care they need to feel at home in their own bodies. I myself have parents who were not in favor of medically transitioning, and had I decided when I was still a minor to medically transition they would not have stood with me, and if this bill was in action, their viewpoints and opinions would have prevented me from pursuing the means I would have needed to be more me.

I believe if this bill is passed, and any other anti-trans bill, there would be an uprise in suicides in the trans community. If life is made harder to live, if people begin to feel trapped in bodies that aren't theirs, that might be enough for people to take their own lives. This on top of the fact that the Trump administration is seeking to cut specialized services for LGBTQ+ people who call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, many people may begin to see themselves losing their loved ones who couldn't receive care or help.

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!