

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Testimony in opposition to

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

19 May, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Kris Pitts and I am a resident of Lewiston; I am writing on behalf of myself, as an individual. I am voicing my strong and urgent opposition to LD 380.

As a social worker and educator with a career spanning more than two decades, much of which has been dedicated to the service of youth and young adults -and an overwhelming percentage of whom are transgender- I can say with certainty that LD 380 will result in more harm than good. When those under 18 are making medical decisions without the input of a guardian, there is a reason. Denying them the ability to do so would be disastrous.

Navigating complex medical systems is, at best, difficult. As a minor, it can be nearly impossible, even in cases where a young person is connected to caring adults other than a guardian; when they qualify for McKinney-Vento status; or even when they have access to monetary resources or other support. In a perfect world, no young person would need to seek care without the guidance or support of their guardian, yet we know that is not our reality.

The reality is that 40-60% of unhoused youth and young adults are 2SLGBTQIA+, with a growing percentage identifying as transgender or nonbinary; unhoused youth and young adults rarely have the support of or connections to affirming guardians. The reality is that, according to the 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, 55% of transgender youth reported feeling as though their parents helped them succeed in meeting their goals, compared to 78% of their cisgender peers; 35% of transgender youth reported having the support of other adults in their life, compared to 52% of their cisgender peers; 58% of transgender youth reported feeling that they had the love and support of their families most or all of the time, compared to 82% of their cisgender peers; and only 1 in 3 transgender students felt as though they mattered to people in their community, compared to 2 in 3 of their cisgender peers. Furthermore, a 2024 study by the Trevor project found that anti-transgender laws caused a 72% increase in suicide attempts in transgender and nonbinary youth. Conversely, we know that gender affirming care is lifesaving, with an overwhelming body of peer-reviewed and evidence-based research indicating positive outcomes across mental and physical health indicators among all age ranges, including youth and young adults.

It is clear that LD 380 is another attempt to disconnect transgender Mainers from safety and support, and we need to send a resounding message: Not in our state!

I strongly urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Kris Pitts, MPS, MSW