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Testimony of Representative Ambureen Rana supporting

LD 1040, An Act to Require Reimbursement for Gender-affirming Care for MaineCare Members

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Ambureen Rana, and I represent House District 21, which includes a portion of Bangor. I am here before you today to present **LD 1040, An Act to Require Reimbursement for Gender-affirming Care for MaineCare Members**.

LD 1040 prohibits the MaineCare program from discriminating in its reimbursement for medically necessary treatment on the basis of a MaineCare member's gender identity, gender expression or on the basis that the MaineCare member is a transgender individual and requires that the program cover medically necessary treatment for or related to gender dysphoria.

In 2019, exclusions to transgender care for those enrolled in MaineCare were removed. Because of these changes, MaineCare policy is now in compliance with both state and federal law. This bill is simply putting into statute what has already been accomplished in 2019 to ensure that medically necessary care is provided, and the right to health care for those enrolled in MaineCare is not impeded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.