

Hello Senator Carney, Representative Moonin and members of the Judicial Committee My name is Elliot Matthew Osmer and I am 16 years old Although that's not the name on my birth certificate that is simply who I am I'm here to speak about passing the bill to allow trans youth ages 16-17 to start hormone replacement therapy without parental consent Growing up I always felt as if I was out of place and in a body that was not my own It felt as if my body didn't match who I was or who I was supposed to be I knew in order to continue my journey I had to take my own steps to do this At age twelve I came out to my mother as transgender, and I remember to this day how terrified I was to tell her As the years passed, cutting my hair and changing my clothes were no longer enough, and I knew that to truly feel like myself I would need to start HRT In order to do this I would have to come out to my father as well In my case I was met with support and understanding After a year of waiting I finally was able to start Testosterone In that year of waiting it gave me something to look forward to and kept me going everyday I could tell myself "okay I can do this, I'm going to be starting soon" I will always remember the relief I felt once I started I could finally be myself But unfortunately this isn't the case for many trans youth today They are faced with parents who don't support them, and have no escape from the cycle of feeling out of place HRT truly saved my life and allowed me to be able to become the person I am and always was on the inside Nearly three quarters of trans students reported depressive symptoms and half of them seriously considered suicide in the past year just in Maine alone I'm asking you to pass this bill in hopes that no more trans kids, who may have not been met with the same support that I was, will no longer become part of the rising statistic of suicide among trans youth Thank you for your listening