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Sen Carney, Rep Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Penny Morrell of Belgrade, Maine.

I oppose both of these bills before you today.

L.D 535, "An Act to Increase Access to Necessary Medical Care for Certain Minors" and  
L D. 1735, "An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care "

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I oppose for the following reasons:

LD 1735 is lawyer talk of which I'm having a hard time to follow, not being a lawyer. However, the title is enough to cause me to pause.

I attended the hearing when Secretary of State, then Representative Shenna Bellows, said that not allowing a child to be what he is was child abuse. Here we are all these years later, and students in schools are being taught about gender instead of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Never in our history have so many girls struggled with the gender question which tells me they were never troubled with it until being confronted with it and brainwashed. That, in my mind is real child abuse.

The doctor doesn't get it wrong when a baby is born, and the sex is declared. There are only two sexes, male and female, very evident by body parts. To try to be anything other than how one is created is defying God and will not serve a person well. It's been said that not allowing a child to be what he (generic) identifies as will cause mental and emotional stress that could lead to suicide and/or other abnormalities. However, the rise in child suicide has never been higher and confusion by our young is higher too. It has led to chaos, violence, and confusion, not peace.

LD 535 was only a "concept draft" until the proposed amendment came out, I believe yesterday. As I read the amendment, it works in tandem with LD 1735 and goes even beyond, as I see it. Not allowing parents to be the sole arbiter of a child's health is wrong. Schools, the government, and the courts do not have the same concern for the welfare of a child as do the parent(s). In a civil society, the family, not the government, is the best environment for the care, nurture, and wellbeing of children.

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Please vote "ought not to pass" on both LDs 535 and 1735. Thank you.