

Pinette, Susan

From: Nikita Gagain <nikita.gagain.ub@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:32 AM
To: JUD
Subject: Writing to strongly support LD 1735

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Nikita Gagain, I am a resident of Oakland, Maine, and I wish to add my name to the long list of supporters of LD 1735, An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care. I unfortunately only found out about this hearing time this morning, so regretfully, I must apologize that my points are not as well developed in this message as I would prefer. However, I still wish to make my position known, as I feel strongly that passing this bill is an essential protection of human rights.

When I think of Maine, I think of the phrase *Dixigo, I lead*. I think of how now, the nation needs Maine to lead the way in being a safe haven. I think it is absolutely inhumane to criminalize accessing and providing access to gender-affirming healthcare, as some other states have done. We know that such healthcare is frequently lifesaving.

We should not be participating in the oppression of marginalized groups by condoning unjust, inhumane, discriminatory laws. That would not be acceptable. LD 1735 protects access to lifesaving healthcare for a high-risk marginalized demographic.

I implore you to pass LD 1735. I wholeheartedly support this bill, and look forward to hearing that you do, too.

Thank you for your time and public service,

Nikita Gagain
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