



MaineTrans.Net

redefining gender

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Testimony of Maine Transgender Network

LD 1735 "An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care"

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee my name is Quinn Gormley, I am the Executive Director of MaineTransNet, and I am testifying today in support of LD 1735 "An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care "

You have already heard today about the incredibly positive impact Gender Affirming health care can have in the lives of transgender young people and their families Supporting young people to develop in ways that are authentic and aligned with who they are helps them not just to survive, but to thrive Unfortunately, in states across this county, this essential care is under attack

Transgender medical care for transgender adolescents and adults is safe and effective Healthcare providers who specialize in the treatment of gender dysphoria follow standards developed through decades of clinical study These **well-established standards of care** for transgender adolescents have been endorsed and adopted by major U S medical and mental health associations including, but not limited to

- The American Medical Association
- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
- The American Psychiatric Association
- The American Psychological Association
- The Pediatric Endocrine Society

"Ban states" are moving with alarming speed to prohibit medically necessary transgender health care, which harms patients and threatens the livelihood of providers For example, Alabama enacted a law that makes it a felony with a possible ten-year prison sentence for a provider, parent, or anyone to assist a young person in accessing medically necessary transgender-related health care services As of May 11, 2023, 18 states have banned access to transgender healthcare ¹

¹ https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare_youth_medical_care_bans

At MaineTransNet, we've received an alarming number of requests from families from states like Florida, Georgia, Idaho, and Kentucky looking for somewhere safe to bring their children. These families are terrified about being split up. They know from medical and mental health providers, as well as the insistence of their children, what healthcare their kids need and they want to make it possible for them to get it. So they relocate. We know families who have moved their entire lives into in-law apartments, spare bedrooms, and even onto air mattresses in a garage while they figure out how to reestablish themselves in our state. And it's worth it to them. Because it's keeping their kids safe and healthy. What wouldn't we all do to ensure our own children had the same?

Maine is already a sanctuary for many. Our reputation as a leader on LGBTQ+ inclusion is well known. Families from ban states are attracted to our unique combination of safety, rurality, and natural beauty. In ways New York and California can't, Maine can look and feel familiar while offering opportunities for young people to thrive.

This bill is an opportunity for Maine to lead again. It's our chance to send a clear message that hate isn't welcome here. That evidence-based care is our standard. And that healthcare providers and families who need safety can make their lives here. We have an obligation to take that opportunity. It's who we are.

I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1735.

Thank you,

Quinn Gormley
Executive Director
MaineTransNet