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*25+ Years of Independent Practice as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine*

Re: LD 227 An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

March 5, 2024

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services,

I am a primary care nurse practitioner working with adult and adolescent patient populations in a community-based FQHC. I am an active member of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association (MNPA) including serving on the MNPA Legislative Committee. I am writing in support of LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State. Our association stands with other medical professionals and advocacy organizations in support of this bill.

Gender-affirming health care provides medical and mental health services to transgender adolescents and adults who are already vulnerable and marginalized in many areas in and outside Maine. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for this population to receive high-quality care considering legislation in other states banning treatments and criminalizing the health care providers serving in this field of care.

Gender-affirming care is health care and these decisions ought not be made by lawmakers but between the patient and provider where clinical decision-making and evidence-based practice occur. It is important to support and advocate for Maine transgender individuals and ensure they have access to the resources and treatments needed to live fully authentic lives.

Gender-affirming and reproductive care providers should not fear repercussions from out-of-state law enforcement or a parent who disagrees with the plan of care for transitioning adolescents.

Protective legislation included in LD 227 promotes patient confidentiality enabling a climate of trust between patients and providers, open communication, and protection against legal actions from out-of-state related to legal and allowable care provided within the State of Maine.



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LD 227 will also place protective legislation on health care providers' personal information, which, if breached, might adversely affect their practices and empaneled patients.

I strongly urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 227 and support gender-affirming care and protective legislation for Maine citizens and health care workers.

Respectfully submitted,

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