

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I'm Amy Starnes, and I live in Westbrook, ME, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 227.

When my stepchild came out as transgender to my husband and me in early 2020, our first concern was for their safety. Having seen so much hostility toward trans people all across the country, I was terrified about their future and my concerns ran a broad spectrum of fears:

How would they be treated by the people who loved them? And what about those that didn't? Would they be a victim of a hate crime because of their identity? Would they have the same career opportunities as other people their age? Would they have access to safe medical care if they sought options to feel more comfortable in their skin?

I am grateful that we were able to support them through the early years of this transition, and that insurance, healthcare providers, and laws ensuring their access to gender-affirming care were a part of that support.

Just last weekend, while having dinner together as a family, I was struck by how happy and how comfortable they were. They had a good job. Good friends. A good life. When someone you love has been struggling, it is a beautiful thing to see them in a place where they are thriving. I want the same for all of our children in Maine. With increasing attacks on reproductive and gender-affirming care across the country, I urge Maine lawmakers to act to protect healthcare providers and citizens in our state.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 227. Thank you.

Amy Starnes
Westbrook, ME