



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Testimony in opposition to

LD 380: An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services

May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. My name is Bre Danvers-Kidman, and I use they/them pronouns. I am a resident of Saco, and I am appearing here as Executive Co-Director of Maine Transgender Network, which has provided support and advocacy to transgender Mainers and those who love us statewide for over twenty years. I am here today to voice our strenuous opposition to LD 380.

Ideally, all transgender youth would be able to make healthcare decisions with their family and healthcare providers in a way that is safe—both physically and emotionally.

If that were the reality, the statute this bill seeks to repeal would almost certainly never have been enacted.

I can confidently speak for everyone who works with trans youth in this state when I say: we wish parents would just love their kids, no matter what. We wish parents would commit to caring for their kids, no matter who they turn out to be. We wish parents would listen to their kids, and trust them to understand their identities, and trust medical professionals to provide clear guidance on the options to address their medical needs so that they can make informed choices based on scientific evidence. When parents of trans youth do these things, trans youth don't need to seek medical care over their parents' objections.

Unfortunately, that's not the world we live in. We live in a world where up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+—despite LGBTQ+ youth making up only around 10% of the population. We live in a world where some parents haven't yet caught up to the fact that conversion therapy has been debunked. We live in a world where it is staggeringly rare for people to possess the emotional maturity to know that every individual person knows themselves better than any other human being could.

That's why trans youth turn up at our drop-in hours looking for help. We encourage everyone we encounter to build bridges with their families, friends, and communities when it is safe for them to do so, but many report abuse or being turned out of their homes because of who they are. For those youth, getting access to this care is lifesaving. For those youth, having a trusting relationship with a licensed medical provider might be the difference between having one supportive adult



caring for them regularly and having none. For those youth, having a chance to get gender affirming care could be the only way to motivate them to attend to other unmet medical needs. For those youth, having an adult listen to them and help them get the information they need to make decisions about their own body can be the difference between abject hopelessness and a future worth sticking around for.

I want to believe that people here believe in suicide prevention for all children. For trans kids, being able an adult who will respect their identity is a critical lifeline. Until every parent is ready to do that for their child, we owe it to trans kids to provide a pathway to an adult who can offer them safety, understanding, and evidence-based care.

For these reasons—and many more I would be glad to discuss in greater detail—I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on this bill. I thank you all for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Testimony in opposition to

LD 1337: An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters

and

LD 1432: An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. My name is Bre Danvers-Kidman, and I use they/them pronouns. I am a resident of Saco, and I am appearing here as Executive Co-Director of Maine Transgender Network, which has provided support and advocacy to transgender Mainers and those who love us statewide for over twenty years. I am here today to voice our strenuous opposition to LD 1337 and LD 1432.

I want to remind everyone who encounters my words today that what the government can do to one of us, they can do to any of us. That "First They Came" poem was only possible in retrospect, after a great atrocity had occurred. Chronologically, the most important part of the poem is the beginning—the part in history where most people don't understand or believe people who try to warn them about what is coming, so they fail to act.

May everyone on this committee remember the opportunity you have today to clearly and unequivocally state that Maine will have no part in the dismantling of human rights for anyone in this state. May you remember the opportunity you have today to have your great-great-grandchildren remember your actions in this legislative body with pride, rather than shame.

The federal government has made no secret of its intentions to erase transgender people entirely from public life. On the first day of the presidency—while wars raged on and the middle class struggled—the president chose to begin firing off a slew of executive actions rooted entirely in bare animus against transgender people.

I want you to take a moment and consider whether it is truly plausible that a tiny percentage of the population is so inherently threatening or unmanageable that we warrant multiple executive orders... or if, perhaps, it makes more sense for all this brouhaha to be about something bigger.



I won't waste your time by begging you to care about the inherent worth and dignity of transgender people because, quite frankly, you don't have to care about us to understand that what is proposed by all of the bills before this committee today is harmful to all Mainers.

Ask yourself whether you'd want your mother or your sister or your daughter to have to show her genitals to staff at a shelter in order to gain a safe place to stay in a moment of need. Would you want that for anyone?

All discrimination against transgender people stems from a bizarre and creepy tradition of using the expected appearance of a person's most intimate body parts to dictate how that person ought to behave and appear in daily life. While these discriminatory practices should continue to be forbidden under other categories listed in the Maine Human Rights Act, ultimately a choice to proactively remove protections on the basis of gender identity can speak to nothing but animus against transgender people during a time of unprecedented political attacks... and cowardice in the face of threats to our long-held civil rights.

All of the bills before you today are a test. We, as a society, are being tested on who we are willing to sacrifice. We are being tested on whose rights are expendable. Most critically, however, we are being tested on how much control we are willing to hand over to the government without a fight.

The federal government wants you to open the door to draconian enforcement of rigid gender norms, which provide virtually limitless opportunities for government surveillance and control. Literally any person could be deemed "insufficiently masculine" or "insufficiently feminine" as a reason to deny shelter, housing, credit, education, employment, healthcare... unless Maine stands up and says "we're not doing that here."

For these reasons—and many more I would be glad to discuss in greater detail—I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. I thank you all for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.