

## **My Testimony 3:00pm**

*(LD 380)*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee my name is Kassady Webb, I live in Rome, and I am a lifelong transgender resident of Maine speaking in opposition to the proposed legislation.

I grew up in an anti-trans household in Dexter. Access to gender-affirming care was essentially impossible for me to obtain in this environment as I lacked the parental support necessary to go through the medical process. As I developed as a queer person I faced more and more pushback from my surrounding family and town community members.

Eventually, I came of age and also gained the ability to access hormone replacement therapy through an informed consent clinic and was able to transition into a person that I have never felt more proud of despite those who did everything they could to keep me from this vital healthcare.

I love being trans, I have no regrets about transitioning despite the discrimination and hatred I face constantly. The only regret I have in my transition is that I did not get the opportunity to transition sooner and prevent the permanent changes of testosterone-induced puberty. The changes I was forced to endure, such as my masculine-coded voice, by not having access to gender-affirming care at a young age will now require me to pay thousands of dollars and go through years of complicated medical processes and treatment to reverse.

When you pair this with the fact that only around 1% of trans people go through the medical process of transitioning detransition with the vast majority doing so due to a lack of access or for their safety it becomes clear that protecting access to gender-affirming care for all trans people of all ages is necessary for providing adequate healthcare to the people of Maine.

We should be expanding access, not limiting it, to gender-affirming care to ensure the trans members of our state receive access to the experiences of life that are impossible to achieve without confidence in one's gender presentation. We should be building up our communities, not tearing them down through these invasive regulations and restrictions on scientifically supported healthcare and their providers.

By seeking to weaken protections for youths' access to informed consent care which helps far more than just transgender people in seeking all kinds of care, it hurts healthcare in this state as a whole. We should be seen as a state at the forefront of healthcare and expanding access, attracting innovation and expansions in healthcare professionals. We should be a blueprint for providing care across this nation, for not only patients but for doctors and providers as well. In closing, I reference our state's motto, "dirigo". Or in English, "I lead" just as we should be doing in the fight to protect our community and its access to healthcare and its providers.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KADW". The letters are stylized and connected, with a large "K" and "A" followed by "D" and "W".

Kassady Webb