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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee.

My name is Annie Kiermaier. I am a resident of Rockport and a member of the First Universalist Church in Rockland. I am here in opposition to the bill before the Committee today: LD 380.

I am here in support of my niece, Rose, a lovely young trans adult who has faced many struggles because of the hatred and toxicity towards trans people in our society. I am here as a Unitarian Universalist. The heart of my faith is Love. My faith affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I am here as a retired Registered Nurse and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. In my decades of service to Maine families, I worked to promote the health and wellbeing of all, including building a society that supports and includes everyone.

PL 2023 provides safety for Maine health care providers and their patients to engage in life-saving gender affirming health care practices. Amending PL 2023 by passing LD 380 will restrict care and therefore increase suicide among trans young people. This life saving health care should be a private decision between the health care professional and their patient, NOT the State of Maine. My niece, Rose, would be devastated if she could not access her gender affirming health care.

Thank you for this opportunity. Please vote Out Not to Pass on LD 380. Thank you.