

**Testimony Opposing LD 380**

*Public Hearing: 3pm May 8, 2025 – Judiciary Committee*

Submitted by: Benn Marine, Cumberland, ME

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you a final time today. You've heard from me this morning as an uncle and this afternoon as a business leader.

Now, I speak to you as a transgender man (that means I was assigned female at birth, but identify as a man) who has received gender-affirming care.

Let me be absolutely clear: that care saved my life.

It wasn't rushed. It wasn't reckless. It was careful, informed, and guided by some of the most compassionate and skilled healthcare professionals I've ever known. It was not about politics. It was about becoming myself—safely, with dignity.

LD 380 threatens all of that. This bill creates fear and legal uncertainty for healthcare providers across Maine. It may discourage them from offering care they know is evidence-based, ethical, and lifesaving. And it sends a dangerous message: that caring for transgender patients could put their licenses, reputations, or livelihoods at risk.

As a patient, that terrifies me.

And as a resident of this state, it infuriates me. Maine already struggles to attract and retain healthcare providers. We need more doctors and nurses, not fewer. We need laws that support providers, not ones that push them into silence or send them packing.

Gender-affirming care is not fringe. It is endorsed by every major medical and psychological association. It reduces depression, anxiety, and suicide risk. It affirms identity and restores hope. That is what it did for me.

I want trans youth in Maine to know they have a future here. That they are not broken. That they are not alone. And that the adults in their lives—including this legislature—will protect their right to exist and access the care they need.

LD 380 would steal that hope. It wouldn't make anyone safer. It would only create more harm—more fear for patients, and more silence for providers.

I am 40 years old and living proof of what's possible when trans people receive the care they need. Please don't take that away from the next generation.

Vote no on LD 380. Let us live. Let our doctors care.

Thank you.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benn Marine", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Benn Marine