

Aaron Rose

Harpswell, Maine

May 8, 2025

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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Aaron Rose, I am a resident of Harpswell. I am here today in opposition of LD 380.

LD 380 is a dangerous rollback of essential health care protections. It removes safeguards for both patients and medical practitioners, permits patient extradition across state lines, and eliminates restrictions on law enforcement's ability to subpoena private health records. These changes represent a clear threat to medical privacy and autonomy, and they open the door to potential discrimination within health care systems.

One of the most troubling provisions targets transgender youth. The bill prohibits individuals aged 16 to 18 from accessing gender-affirming care without parental consent. This is a critical stage in adolescent development, often the peak of puberty, where delays in care can lead to irreversible changes inconsistent with the individual's gender identity. Such forced delays may result in lifelong gender dysphoria, a condition strongly associated with increased rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation, significantly diminishing overall quality of life.

Portions of LD 380 appear to be a calculated, indirect attack on a federally protected class: people with gender dysphoria, many of whom identify as genderqueer or transgender. Gender dysphoria is recognized as a protected condition under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as affirmed in *Williams v. Kincaid*. By undermining access to care and exposing

individuals to criminalization or discrimination, this bill attempts to circumvent federal protections under the guise of state legislation.

In short, LD 380 represents a regressive and potentially unconstitutional step backward in the rights of vulnerable communities. I ask that you vote ought not to pass on LD 380. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Aaron Rose

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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Aaron Rose, I am a resident of Harpswell. I am here in opposition of LD-1432.

The expressed purpose of this bill is to remove consideration of gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act. If this bill passes, it will remove safety measures for genderqueer citizens in regards to tenancy, employment, education, and access to public amenities. These citizens are among the most vulnerable in our state.

Jess Maurer from the Maine Council on Aging claims transgender adults have higher rates of depression and anxiety than the rest of the population due to discrimination, stigma, and violence. "For any group who has been traditionally marginalized, it's a terrifying idea to be going into an assisted living facility or a nursing home where you may experience trauma, violence, name-calling or harassment," Maurer said. "And it's a double concern because it's not just from the other residents that you may experience this from, but you may run into hostilities with staff, too" (Walsh). The repeal of gender identity from the MHRA would expose over 1000 transgender maine elderly to further harassment and discrimination.

According to the 2015 Maine Trans Survey, 8% of transgender adults in our state have lost a job due to their gender identity in the previous year. Twenty-five percent of transgender adults who held or applied for a job in 2014 reported being fired, denied a promotion, or not

being hired on the basis of their gender identity. In the same year, genderqueer adults faced more than twice the rate of unemployment and economic hardship. All of these statistics reflect the disparity with the protections in place, a gap which will only widen if they're removed.

The effects of bathroom bans have been well documented, as I explained in my position against LD-1704, an implementation of a bathroom ban in Maine would likely result in approximately 182 sexual assaults against genderqueer youth in Maine in the next year, and would not statistically effect the rate of criminal offenses against cisgendered people.

Beyond the empirical effects of this bill, there is a numerical link between acceptance of genderqueer people and a lower rate of suicide in these populations. Removing legal protections for transgender individuals in a public statement rejecting them. As a teenager, I have already attended too many funerals for my friends. I beg of you, don't be the reason I end up at another. If you vote to pass this bill, you take a stand against the welfare of your constituents. As such, I urge that you vote ought not to pass on LD 1432. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Phillips, J. (2022, November 15). U.S. trans survey is a vital resource for the transgender community and policymakers. MECEP.

<https://www.mecep.org/blog/us-trans-survey-vital-resource/>

Walsh, B. A. (2025, January 30). *Maine's aging transgender population faces profound challenges*. The Maine Monitor.

<https://themainemonitor.org/maines-aging-transgender-population-faces-profound-challenges/>