

Jacqueline Violet Scott Ferlito  
Age 26  
Resident of Waterville, ME  
5/8/2025

**My Testimony 3:00pm**

(LD 380)

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee; thank you for the opportunity today to address the Committee directly. My name is Jackie Ferlito, and I am a queer and trans woman currently living in Waterville.

I am here today in opposition to the bill before the committee. Hormone replacement therapy, or HRT, is healthcare. I would not be here today without HRT, and before I had access to it I came damn close to being another suicide statistic.

Before hormones I barely left the home. I craved isolation because at least at home I didn't have to be cognizant of my own body. I didn't take care of myself. I wouldn't sleep because waking meant I would be returned to a body that fundamentally felt not my own. I tried years of therapy before HRT, and while it helped, it wasn't nearly enough.

Starting hormones for me quite literally gave me a new lease on life. If we had the time to speak with them today, my family would agree with this sentiment, and at first they cautioned me on starting HRT. I'm more confident, outgoing, and involved in my community than I have ever been in my life. I attribute my starting of hormones with my ability to see so much of this great state. I've been from Kittery to Lubec, and along the way I've met so many incredible individuals and communities that have forever changed me for the better. I've learned about agriculture, sailing, how to contra dance, how to give back to my community, and so much more.

If you can't understand this, that's ok. Starting HRT literally means going through a second puberty, who would want that? Yet, I would do it all again. What I would ask is that you

have empathy. I love the life I live now, but I think of how HRT could've changed things. The opportunities that kid could've had instead of wishing she could be anybody, but herself.

Thanks you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jackie Ferlito

Jaqueline Violet Scott Ferlito  
Age 26  
Resident of Waterville, ME  
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**My Testimony 1:00pm**

*(LD 1337, LD 1432)*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee; thank you for the opportunity today to address the Committee directly. My name is Jackie Ferlito, and I am a queer and trans woman currently living in Waterville.

I am here today in opposition to the bills before the committee. My position here is simple: each of these bills targets trans women, an objectively marginalized community, who make up, along with trans men and other gender diverse individuals, only about 1% of the nation's adult population. These bills do not solve any issues, but rather create them for a community, especially its members of color, who are already the subject of daily vicious vitriol. LD 1432 in particular is a vaguely worded bill that would, if passed, open up the state to further litigation.

Any time I enter a room, any time I use my voice, I'm immediately clocked as something different from the established norm. I spend each waking moment hyper analyzed on how I'm being perceived, desperately trying to control that perception as best as I can, because it only takes one person to look at me the wrong way for me to not see tomorrow. I have been threatened, my friends have been threatened, just by our pure existence on this Earth. And I'm a white person. What I'm really worried about is the impact bills like these would have on the trans woman and gender diverse individuals in our communities who are black, brown, native, poor, or immigrants. It doesn't take me feeling vulnerable to know that those are the communities who will suffer the most at transphobic legislation such as this.

In a world where I am so often the only trans person, let alone a trans woman, in a room I struggle to see how my, or any other trans femme person's, mere existence is a threat to others. I will leave y'all with this: as most people in his building have heard before "as goes Maine, so goes the nation". Nothing exists in a vacuum. Now is a chance for Maine to continue its stance as a stalwart supporter of those most at risk in our country.

Thanks you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jackie Ferlito