

To: Sen. Bailey, Rep. Perry, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee

From: Claire Horne, 773 Union Rd, Appleton, ME 04862

Re: Support for LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

Dear Co-Chairs Bailey and Perry, and esteemed members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services,

My name is Claire Horne, and I'm a resident of Appleton, ME. I am writing to strongly urge you to support LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.

I believe this legislation is essential for protecting access to equitable healthcare in Maine. This act would establish much-needed protections for those seeking healthcare within our state. This matters to me personally for my own access to care as well as access for others in my community.

I am a cisgender woman, and not only do I care about my access to reproductive healthcare, I also currently receive gender-affirming healthcare. I know that this access is life-changing, and can be life-saving to so many, particularly for trans folks. It has been horrifying to see the nationwide attacks on both gender-affirming care and reproductive healthcare. These attacks on healthcare access are clear attempts to control and limit the bodily autonomy of transgender people and people who can get pregnant. Limiting access to healthcare based on prejudice hurts everyone. It is completely contrary to human rights to suggest that we can cut off entire arms of healthcare access. People of all genders should have full, unequivocal access to the healthcare that is safe, reputable, and right for them. The idea that gender-affirming care and reproductive care are in some way different from any other branch of healthcare, such as cardiology, is based in prejudice, control, discrimination, and anti-science thinking. Everyone in our state deserves to have access to healthcare, no exceptions. This is why I am encouraging you to support LD 227.

LD 227 would help assuage my (unfortunately very real) fears of having my reproductive rights taken away, losing access to medication that I need, and losing my ability to get gender-affirming care. Without these anxieties, I would be able to better show up as my authentic self in my community, and make more genuine contributions. Further, I know it would have a similar effect on many members of my community, which is just as important to me. With LD 227 protecting vital healthcare access, I can feel better about living in Maine, and feel like my human rights are being respected in my state.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, and I hope you will be moved to support LD 227, and support the inherent human right of bodily autonomy as it pertains to healthcare in Maine.

Sincerely,
Claire Horne
Appleton, ME

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LD 227

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