

Elizabeth Pope
Portland
LD 227

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I'm Elizabeth Pope, I live in Portland, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 227.

I am a proud mother to two beautiful children who were born and raised in this state, and one of my kiddos has never fit firmly inside a binary gender system. I believe that they and ALL Maine people deserve to receive the medical care they need without harmful politicization. Gender affirming care saves lives -- this is evidence-based. Maine has a chance to strengthen its existing legal protections for its citizens and protect our brave health care providers, who have endured so much over the past years. Multiple mainstream medical groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, endorse gender-affirming care and have been outspoken in their opposition to efforts that restrict access. We should trust the experts in this area. I have always planned to keep my family in my beloved state of Maine, and can only do that if it is a safe place for all my family members. For these reasons, I implore you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 227. Thank you.