

Ashley Schumacher
Freeport
LD 227

Senator York, Representative Bailey, and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

My name is Ashley Schumacher and I am writing today to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.

As a registered nurse working in school health, a queer and nonbinary individual who was assigned female at birth, and a parent, I support the contents of this bill for many reasons.

I know that when we recognize the bodily autonomy of all people and trust in their ability to know what is right for themselves, we move closer to equity in our society and farther away from violence and oppression. I know that both gender affirming care and abortion care are life-saving services that everyone has an inherent right to. I also know as a citizen that these rights are under attack. With this bill, Maine has the opportunity to stand on the right side of justice by serving as a safe haven for those who must seek these critical services outside of their home states.

As a nonbinary individual, I have seen firsthand the difference that gender-affirming care makes in the lives of my transgender and gender expansive peers. I have watched with increasing horror as anti-trans legislation has swept across our country and have grieved for my queer and trans siblings whose existence has been dehumanized, illegitimized and criminalized. My own small family cannot safely travel to many of these United States for fear that our child will be removed from our care simply because I am openly nonbinary.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my story and deep connection to these issues of health equity, bodily autonomy, and reproductive and gender justice. Please support LD 227.

In gratitude,

Ashley Schumacher, they/she, RN, BSN