

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

I have lived in Maine all my life. One reason I've chosen to remain is because the state upholds and protects the right for me and others to have control over our bodies. Maine respects the rights of individuals and families to make careful medical decisions for themselves and their children with the guidance of trusted healthcare professionals. **The reproductive and gender-affirming care that is established and legal in Maine saves many lives.** Mainers do not want the draconian laws of other states banning abortions and gender-affirming care to change the quality of, and access to, this essential care in Maine.

You can protect us from the negative impact the laws in other state could have on us and our health care system. I urge you to pass LD 227 to ensure that Maine healthcare providers who provide this care – and our health care infrastructure- are protected from attacks from the laws of other states, ensuring that patients in Maine continue to have access to the legal, thoughtful, well-established reproductive and gender-affirming care we have now. Again, this care saves lives.

Everyone should be able to get the medical care they need in Maine. This care is already established, safe, and legal here. We do not want the over-stepping laws of other states to change this, to dictate our access to care.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 227 to continue to make Maine a place that protects our access and right to this essential care and those who provide it. By respecting and protecting the rights of people in Maine, you will help make Maine be a welcoming place where I and so many others want to remain, where all can thrive.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Sinclair

Portland, Maine