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LD 380

Respectfully, I urge this legislature to reject legislation that aims to restrict the rights to bodily autonomy and self determined identity and interferes with the medical decision making process being private between patients and providers. This bill seeks to remove protections from persons who seek, health care practitioners who provide, and those who assist in providing gender-affirming health care and reproductive health care services in accordance with the applicable standards of care. What possible reason, outside of transphobic and misogynistic social control goals, would we have for removing protections from our citizens and healthcare providers against being doxxed? For erecting more barriers than folks already have to access life saving medical treatment? For making it less attractive for those trained and licensed to do so to practice medicine within the state? Maine is already experiencing a shortage of healthcare providers and non clinicians placing ideological limits on how they can practice medicine is an embarrassing absurdity. I have been proud that our governor has stood up to the federal attempts to bully, threaten, and extort Maine and its citizens for holding firm in the assertion that all of our citizens deserve civil rights and I will likewise speak against this local attempt at furthering those same malicious goals. Any specific subset of the population that has their rights removed is inherently and vehemently anti-democratic and puts the rights of all in danger. I vigorously oppose the removal of equal protections under the law for ANY Mainer, but especially in this instance where a minority population and their healthcare providers are being cynically targeted, politized, and used as pawns in a culture war designed specially to distract from the real work of taking care of the Maine people-- ALL of them-- regardless of personal identity factors. The harm that would result from this is completely unacceptable and avoidable, because this is actually about stifling identity exploration/expression and normative human experience to what fits into the narrow minds of a small but unfortunately vocal minority who masquerade the erosions of freedom and sewing of bigotry under the guise of an outraged defense that is in no way shape or form needed. Please protect all Maine's citizens and our healthcare system, reject this transphobic, misogynistic attempt to further erode civil liberties in this country. Thank you for your consideration.