

The First Parish in Portland, Maine, Unitarian Universalist

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The First Parish is a Welcoming Congregation



May 8, 2025

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am proud to be a resident – and a clergy member – in the great State of Maine where gender-affirming healthcare is available to those who seek it. Because gender-affirming care is often synonymous with *life-saving* care, it is imperative that we resist the kind of strictures proposed in bill LD 380.

At First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Portland, we welcome all who come to our doors. That welcoming stance means that our congregation is blessed with a constantly expanding and diversifying gathering of human beings entering into sacred community. I'm proud to serve that congregation and proud to live in a state that offers a similarly expansive welcome, including a welcome to those who come here from places where state legislatures use hate and ignorance to diminish the healthcare options for transgender residents.

As an ordained minister, I have a deep love for my Unitarian Universalist heritage, which names every person as being of "inherent dignity and worthiness" and which has its roots in New England's Transcendentalist and Abolitionist movements. I hope you'll join me in drawing on those same forward-thinking traditions as we oppose LD 380. Let's ensure that Maine continues to be a place where the findings of science and medicine merge with loving hearts to offer life-saving care for all who need it.

Sincerely,

Rev. Norman Allen

Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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