



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION,
AND THE MAINE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**

In Opposition to

LD 1432 - An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
State House, Room 438, Augusta, Maine
Thursday, May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Dr. Joe Anderson. I am a resident of Portland, a pediatric hospitalist in Lewiston, and I serve on the board of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Maine AAP) as the chair of our Advocacy committee. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to *LD 1432 – An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act* on behalf of the Maine Medical Association (MMA), the Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA), and the Maine AAP.

The MMA is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The MOA is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and subspecialists across the state dedicated to improving the health and lives of children and adolescents in Maine.

The MMA, MOA, and Maine AAP's legislative and advocacy committees have joined to speak with one voice in opposition to this legislation. We are deeply concerned about the harmful consequences this bill would have, particularly for transgender youth and families, and ask that you vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1432.

This bill proposes to remove gender identity entirely from the Maine Human Rights Act, erasing one of the essential protections for transgender adults and children in our state.

Legal protections matter.

The Maine Human Rights Act rightly recognizes gender identity as a protected class. Removing these protections would invite discrimination in schools, employment, housing, and health care, with especially dire consequences for vulnerable youth and families.

Physicians routinely care for transgender and gender-diverse youth and adults who experience bullying, discrimination, isolation, and exclusion from activities because of their identity. Legal protections under the Human Rights Act are often the only safeguard these individuals and their families have to ensure equal treatment and dignity.

The health consequences are real.

Major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics¹, the American Medical Association², and the American Psychiatric Association³, support affirming care and nondiscrimination protections for transgender individuals. Discrimination, whether legal or informal, has been shown to worsen mental health outcomes and increase the risk of suicide, substance use, and school dropout.

LD 1432 sends a dangerous message: that transgender Mainers are not worthy of equal protection under the law.

Maine should not turn its back on transgender children, adolescents, and adults who need protection the most. LD 1432 does nothing more than to enshrine discrimination, invite stigma, and increase harm to a vulnerable population.

As physicians, we urge you to reject these bills and affirm Maine's commitment to inclusion, equity, and the health of every child and family in our state.

Sincerely,



Joe Anderson, DO, FAAP

Advocacy Chair, Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Member, Maine Medical Association & Maine Osteopathic Association

¹ Jason Rafferty et al., Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health, Committee on Adolescence, Section on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health and Wellness; Ensuring Comprehensive Care and Support for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children and Adolescents. *Pediatrics* October 2018; 142 (4): e20182162. 10.1542/peds.2018-2162. Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/584rxw2v>

² Policy: Support of Human Rights and Freedom H-65.965 American Medical Association. (2024). Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7ca2vf>

³ Position Statement on Discrimination Against Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Individuals. American Psychiatric Association. (2024). Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8hfmv6>