

Jennifer Brockway

Troy, ME

May 7, 2025

RE: LD 380 - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to add my voice in support of Maine's trans youth. My name is Jennifer Brockway, my pronouns are she/her, and I am a resident of Troy. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to LD 380, which seeks to restrict access to gender-affirming care for trans youth.

Gender-affirming care is life-affirming care. This carefully managed and monitored care honors an individual's inherent worth and dignity. Removing access to this care conflicts with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association and more, who recognize this care as medically necessary in the treatment for gender dysphoria and gender incongruence. Attacking access to this care and those who provide it endangers the welfare of many young people and their families.

Individuals with access to this care have the opportunity to realize their full potential and live healthy and fulfilling lives. With access to this care, adolescents can focus on their academics, social confidence, mental health and overall well-being.

Individuals without access to this care are at risk for negative health outcomes, including mental health problems correlated with stigma and prejudice and the absence of social support. Multiple studies have shown that access to gender-affirming care, especially hormone therapy, reduces the risks of suicide in trans-gender youth. This care is crucial for adolescents, and losing access will have devastating consequences for Maine's youth.

I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 380.