

Benjamin Cates
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LD 380

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Benjamin Cates and I am a resident of Portland. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a former social worker for homeless and unhoused youth, I saw firsthand the lengths that some parents would go to control the lives of their minor child, despite making no effort to actually be a part of that child's life in any meaningful way. Children were forced to sleep in shelters solely because their parents wanted nothing to do with them, in some cases solely because they were trans. I ask you: should a parent who forces their child to sleep on the street while they live in a warm home have any say over that child's medical decisions?

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!