

Testimony regarding bill LD 380

Collected May 3, 2025 in Chapman Park, Rockland Maine

By James Cook, Facilitator of The Audacity: Creative Action Together (audacityCAT.com)

The following is transcribed testimony of four residents of the state of Maine who are also members of The Audacity, a local grassroots group of individuals committed to taking nonviolent creative action together to respond to the wave of authoritarianism, bigotry, and corruption currently inundating the nation. We have no budget and operate entirely based on the contributions of our members.

The following testimony was taken in Chapman Park in Rockland, Maine on May 3, 2025, regarding efforts to criminalize abortion in Maine through the bill LD 380. The Audacity is submitting this record of testimony to the Maine State Legislature for the hearing in Augusta at the Maine State House on May 8, 2025 which is scheduled for the bill.

For questions regarding this testimony or documentation of the explicit consent provided by the people named below to have their testimony transcribed and submitted for the legislative record, please contact James Cook of Camden, founder and facilitator of The Audacity, at jamescook@audacitycat.com.

Testimony of Bridget Buck

My name is Bridget Buck. I'm a nurse midwife who lives in Rockland, Maine, and I'm here today to oppose LD 380, which regards gender-affirming health care. Health care is a right for everybody. We live in community. Everybody, no matter who you are – age, gender, color, whatever – health care is a right for everybody, and the government should keep its hands off health care.

Testimony of Nancy Davis of Owls Head

My name is Nancy Davis. I live in Owl's Head. I'm addressing LD 380, I believe it's the stupidest thing I've ever heard of. These are human beings, dear people who have finally found their home and their body, and they need healthcare just like all the rest of us human beings. That's all I have to say.

Testimony of Judith Soleil of Rockland

I am Judith Soleil and I live in Rockland. I am addressing LD 380. I think gender affirming health care services should be available to anyone who needs and wants them.

Testimony of James Cook of Camden

My name is James Cook, I live in Camden Maine, and I want to talk about LD 380. Some people might say what's the problem with giving uh parents notification of somebody's trans expression, their expression of their identity being different from what most other people have? But the thing to notice though about LD 380 is that it is included in a much larger set of notification provisions in existing law. We know, for instance, and this was not excluded by the bill authors, that people who have been raped often don't want to tell the parents because maybe one of the parents did it, or maybe it's a younger sister who was sexually assaulted and saw one of the parents call the older child a slut and shame them and exclude them from the home. Similarly, retaliation can happen sometimes. That is why we need to be able to have common sense ways to get around this idea that parents always should know – because we know not every parent is safe. So, you know, there's in existing law a provision that says you don't just get to go around your parent willy-nilly. You have to engage with the court system and convince a judge that that is necessary for your safety. So many other categories are still included as having protections from parental notification in situations where it would affect their safety, but LD 380 says "Let's just cut out protection for trans kids." Why? Why do they just want to cut out safety for trans kids when the rest of the bill acknowledges that there are times when it's not safe to let parents know? Why do these people in the legislature want trans kids in particular to get hurt? That is my question, I haven't heard an answer to it, and that's why I am standing against LD 380 today.