

Hal Earle
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LD 380

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the Committee. My name is Hal Earle, I'm a resident of Westbrook. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I was a transgender teenager twenty years ago. In 2005 I had the extraordinary luck to have a mother who worked extremely hard to help me access physical transition as a minor. Beginning physical transition as a minor protected me from years of acute distress and most likely saved my life. At 14, at 16, and at 18 I knew my gender identity clearly and no waiting time, protective intervention from the state, or opposition from my parents would have changed that. If my parents or a law had prevented access to transition it would have harmed me immensely without providing any benefit to my life. Maine's existing law gives all teens the same right and opportunity to access life-changing, life-saving transition care, regardless of their luck with parents. We should keep it that way.

Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics is clear that gender-affirming care is the best medical practice for trans teens. Maine's politicians should absolutely not be interfering with physicians' medical decisions given their fundamental lack of medical training.

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!