

Anne M. Gallaudet  
Scarborough, Maine

May 8, 2025

Re: LD 380: An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Healthcare Services

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am writing in opposition of LD 380.

This bill seeks to **repeal** Maine Shield law enacted in 2024 that protects persons who seek, health care practitioners who provide and those who assist health care practitioners in providing gender-affirming health care services in accordance with the applicable standard of care. The repeal would disproportionately affect transgender youth and impact the ability to keep addresses of these targeted groups confidential, eliminate medical malpractice insurance for these legal health care providers and other provider protections. The repeal would open the Maine providers of gender-affirming care to lawsuits by states with more restrictive policies, to doxing and to acts of hate. It would allow the disclosure of protected medical information concerning gender-affirming care in response to subpoenas issued by courts and administrative forums in states outside of Maine as part of the lawsuits this repeal would generate, if the bill became law.

This repeal/ban denies people the right to essential medical services and perpetuates discrimination and harassment. Gender-affirming care is well recognized by key medical professionals and organizations. Gender-affirming care is essential in alleviating gender dysphoria, improving mental health and enhancing the well-being of transgender individuals.

Banning gender-affirming care does NOT protect children. In fact, highly esteemed major medical organizations as well as national professional and advocacy groups support general-affirming care and base their expert opinions on an array of scientific and medical research. Opponents negate such expert opinions but fail to offer any probative evidence to the contrary. Rather, the supporters of bills such as LD 380 base their efforts on feelings, anecdotes, opinions and the like. It is a real and substantial disservice to our transgender youth and our medical professions who provide safe and necessary gender-affirming care to transgender youth – to base bills such a LD 380 on whims, opinions and cultural war propaganda and no more.

Prohibiting gender-affirming care can have tragic consequences for transgender youth. They experience disproportionate bullying and harassment as well as depression. Access to the gender-affirming medical care improves the mental outlook of transgender youth by helping them to align their gender identity more closely with their assigned sex at birth. Gender-affirming care is a right, not a crime. Stop the war against our transgender youth and do not pass this egregious bill. Instead, we should be focused on improving high-quality medical health care to all Mainers – a huge issue for so many Mainers – rather than limiting care to a small number of youths in Maine. Where is your sense of duty?

Please vote “ought not to pass” on LD 380.

Anne Gallaudet  
Scarborough, ME