

Alice Gouge
Gray
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 Alice Gouge. I am writing in strong opposition to LD 380: An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services. This bill would repeal the current process by which a minor consents to gender-affirming hormone therapy and follow-up care.

As a woman with transgender friends in and beyond Maine, I can tell you what they have told me: being able to live and work and exist in your community without fear of discrimination is not some abstract legal principle. It is a matter of daily survival.

I taught in a New Hampshire middle school where a young person and their family were consulting doctors on this very issue, gender-affirming healthcare. Having options helped the student conquer mental health concerns about being their full self. As a public school teacher, I can tell you students have enough questions and concerns without worrying about harassment and uncertainty as they grow into their adult selves. Our young people need to self-actualize and anxiety can inhibit that.

There are urgent issues facing our state: lack of affordable housing, hunger, teacher shortages, climate resilience, and health care access. This bill distracts from those issues by targeting one of the most vulnerable communities in Maine. Please focus on issues that are more relevant to daily life for the large majority of your constituents.

I urge you to vote no, “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 380. Don’t take Maine backward. Don’t strip away protections from people who desperately need them. Let’s stand together for dignity, fairness, and inclusion.

Thank you,
Alice Gouge