

Aurora Green

Orono, Maine

May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Aurora Green. I'm a resident of Orono, and a rising third year clinical psychology Ph.D. student at the University of Maine, where I study youth suicide prevention. I am here today in opposition of all of the bills before the committee today. I'm also the proud older sibling of a transgender sibling.

Regarding LD380, as both a sibling and a clinician-in-training, I've seen firsthand how affirming care saves lives. My sibling came out as a teenager, and access to gender-affirming support has been critical to their mental health and safety. Denying care to youth without parental consent, especially when those youth may not have supportive families, puts them at direct risk for depression, self-injury, and suicide. The research is clear: gender-affirming care significantly reduces suicidality among transgender adolescents and **saves lives**.

This bill would not protect youth, it would endanger them. 16 and 17-year-olds are trusted to make decisions about their reproductive health and mental health care. Stripping them of the ability to access medically recommended, evidence-based gender-affirming care unjustly singles out transgender youth and removes a vital source of stability and safety.

I urge you to reject this harmful bill. Our youth deserve autonomy, respect, and access to the care they need to survive and thrive. 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!

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LD 380

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