

Lina Mamut
New Vineyard, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to address the committee. My name is Lina Mamut. I am a resident of New Vineyard. I am a local business owner and technology professional. I am here in opposition of the bills before the committee today, and I will speak specifically in regard to LD-380, An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services. This act would repeal the current process by which a minor consents to gender-affirming hormone therapy and follow-up care, which would result in a prohibition on minors age 16 to 18 receiving gender-affirming care unless the minor child has parent or guardian consent.

I am a 34 year old nonbinary adult and my pronouns are they/them. I spent years dealing with mental health issues and suicide attempts due to dysphoria because of being assigned female at birth, and being unable to transition when I was younger. I have always known I am nonbinary, even before I had a working definition of "gender identity" or "assigned sex at birth". I know from personal experience how LD-380 would hurt Maine youth, Maine healthcare providers and the state as a whole.

Every person has the fundamental right to access the health care they need without fear of discrimination, prejudice, or barriers to treatment that supports their mental, physical, and emotional well-being.

This bill would eliminate access to medically necessary, age-appropriate, and safe health care backed by decades of research and supported by every major medical association, together representing over 1.3 million U.S. doctors. While gender-affirming care is often framed only in relation to transgender individuals, it can also have benefits for cisgender and intersex people, and these eliminations will impact everyone's access to it. Examples of gender-affirming care that benefit all people, including transgender, cisgender, intersex and nonbinary people, include breast augmentation or reduction, hair removal or extensions, hormone blockers for all children undergoing extremely early puberty and so much more.

It is egregious that we are not listening to medical experts recommendations on proposals such as LD-380, which have been shown time and time again to hurt people.

Repealing Maine's Shield Law would subject Maine's already-strained healthcare infrastructure to out-of-state criminal prosecutions for providing standard-of-care health care as legally allowed in this state. Maine state law has allowed doctors and patients to safely give and receive the care they need. LD 380 would cause great harm to health care providers. This bill would subject healthcare professionals in Maine to uniformed attacks because of the recent politicalization of transgender people's identities by fringe groups.

If I had been able to access gender-affirming care as a young adult, my pathway to being a business person who creates jobs for Mainers and the vast other ways I contribute to our society could have happened years earlier.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on LD-380 and the other bills before you today. Thank you for the time.