

Jocelyn Nelson
Blue Hill
LD 380

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Blue Hill, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee and submit my testimony. My name is Jocelyn Nelson. I'm a resident of Blue Hill. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today, specifically LD 380. I am a Family Nurse Practitioner. Having worked medically with many trans, nonbinary, and cisgender patients I know that these bills would leave ALL patients, medical providers, and medical staff vulnerable to scrutiny, harassment and at risk of losing their livelihoods.

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 medical providers and patients to safely give and receive the care they need, and LD 380 would especially cause great harm to health care providers and staff who assist them. Furthermore, as a medical provider who has provided care to trans and nonbinary individuals, I have seen firsthand, time and time again, that gender affirming care improves lives, saves lives, and allows trans folks to be fully themselves and lead productive, positive lives.

A recent study published in the peer reviewed journal, Nature Human Behavior, included data from over 61,000 people between the years of 2018-2022. The study found anti-transgender laws significantly increased incidents of past-year suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth by as much as 72%. I graduated from the University of Southern Maine with both bachelors and masters nursing degrees. I vowed to number one, do no harm and number two, to utilize evidence-based practices. We have strong evidence in our hands to make the right decision, right now, to save lives. I plead with you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!

Jocelyn Nelson MSN, FNP-BC