

Gabriel Robertson
Portland
LD 380

Subject: Opposition to Restrictions on Gender-Affirming Health Care

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maine to strongly oppose LD 380, which would restrict access to gender-affirming health care for youth.

I have a young cousin, born and raised in southern Maine, who will soon turn three. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, most children begin to develop a stable sense of their gender identity between the ages of 2 and 4. See: www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/Pages/Gender-Identity-and-Gender-Confusion-In-Children.aspx.

Some of these children—including my cousin and peers in daycare—will grow up to tell us they are cisgender. Some will grow up to tell us they are transgender. All deserve access to the health care they may need to feel safe, affirmed, and whole.

Gender-affirming care is not experimental or fringe. It is recognized as evidence-based, effective, and often life-saving by major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association. The AMA has stated that decisions about gender-affirming care should be made between patients, their families, and physicians, without political interference. See: <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/leadership/everyone-deserves-quality-medical-care-delivered-without-bias>.

Please do not let fear-based legislation interfere with decisions that should be made between patients, families, and licensed providers. I urge you to reject LD 380 and support the health and dignity of Maine youth.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Robertson
Portland, ME