

Tyler Rukstales  
Waterville  
LD 380

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Tyler Rukstales and I am a constituent of Waterville. I am writing this testimony on behalf of my transgender peers and the community as a whole. I am testifying against LD380. Out of all the proposed legislation, this is the most blatant attempt to repeal the rights of transgender individuals in Maine. This Bill would repeal protections placed upon people seeking Gender affirmative treatment as well as health care practitioners providing said care. This bill is a blatant attempt at discrimination and an attack on our right to autonomy. Not only would this affect transgender and gender nonconforming individuals looking for care, but it could affect women's abilities to access abortion care, and could restrict cisgender individuals from accessing hormones and treatment they need for certain conditions (such as hypogonadism, where your body does not produce enough sex hormones). There is no reason that we should be restricting our people from getting the care they need as full grown adults. We have full anatomy to our own bodies, and to take away a grown adult's right to their body delves deep into dangerous territory. If our representatives and government can start taking away our ability to take medicines and get surgeries we want or need, then it opens the door for more rights, expression and liberties to be taken away. We must protect our rights to our bodies, nobody should have a say in how adults use and interact with their own bodies. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on LD380