

Written Testimony in Opposition to LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380

Submitted to: Judiciary and Health and Human Services Committees

From: Elizabeth Sekera

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Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Sekera, and I write to strongly oppose **LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380**, three proposals that pose a direct threat to the health, safety, and civil rights of transgender individuals in Maine.

I bring over **20 years of experience in the delivery of gender-affirming health care**, including 10 years running a Federally Qualified Health Center that served transgender patients from across the U.S. I now work with Medicaid enrollees to ensure access to gender-affirming services. I am also a **parent of two children in the Bangor school system** and a lifelong Mainer committed to fairness and inclusion.

These bills are dangerous:

- **LD 1337** would exempt privately run emergency shelters from anti-discrimination laws, allowing them to deny housing to transgender women. Access to shelter is not a political issue—it is a basic human need. Turning people away based on their identity puts them at **higher risk of assault, exposure, and trauma**.
- **LD 1432** would remove “gender identity” from the Maine Human Rights Act. This sends a message that transgender people are not worthy of explicit protection under the law. While courts may interpret sex discrimination broadly, **stripping this language opens the door to legal uncertainty and intentional discrimination**—in housing, employment, health care, and public accommodations.
- **LD 380** would revoke the current process that allows some minors (ages 16–18) to consent to gender-affirming hormone therapy, requiring parental consent. This creates an unnecessary barrier for youth who are already navigating a vulnerable and often unsupported journey. **Medical decisions should remain between patients, their families, and licensed providers—not dictated by political fear.**

This is not just a policy discussion—it’s a deeply personal one. My **partner of 24 years, who passed away last year, was a transgender man**. His transition was a profound gift to witness. It allowed him to live fully, with confidence and authenticity. That experience showed me just how transformative access to gender-affirming care can be. These bills would rob others of that same opportunity.

All major medical associations—including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics—affirm the importance of gender-affirming care. Limiting access or erasing protections puts real lives in jeopardy.

Maine should be a place where everyone is treated with dignity, compassion, and fairness. **Please vote NO** on LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Sekera
Bangor, ME