

Rebecca Starr
South Addison, ME
May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Rebecca Starr and I am a resident and health care professional working in Downeast Maine. I am writing today in opposition of the bills presented before the committee.

As a healthcare professional I have made a commitment to both my profession and community to support the wellbeing and health of all individual who enter my office regardless of race, age, gender identity, or disability status. This includes physical, emotional, and mental health. Passage of these bills would directly and negatively affect my patients and my community overall. Rural, coastal Maine has long been an area known not only for its rugged beauty, but for the strong and hard-working community of folks who have lived here for generations. I have been fortunate in my position as a healthcare provider to support individuals across the lifespan in allowing them to continue living and working here.'

One of the greatest privileges of my career has been working for and supporting the trans members of my community, particularly in the pediatric and teenage populations. I have personally witnessed the benefits of gender-affirming care on the wellbeing of my patients. Medical and emotional support encouraging gender expression and identity has allowed them to flourish and participate in the community as students, family members, and employees. Threats to this aspect of medical care is a direct threat to their lives.

I have chosen to live and work in Downeast Maine for many reasons, but primarily for the kindness, respect for individual identity and strength of the community. Passage of these laws would constrict and poison this kindness and enact direct harm on many of the children and teenagers for whom I provide care.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Starr
South Addison, Maine