



**TESTIMONY OF ALICIA REA, ESQ.  
LD 380 – Ought Not to Pass**

**An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding  
Gender-affirming Health Care Services**

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
May 8, 2025

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, greetings. My name is Alicia Rea and I am a policy fellow at the ACLU of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, we urge you to oppose LD 380, as this repeal would jeopardize bodily autonomy for 16- and 17-year-old transgender Mainers.

Maine has allowed minors to obtain abortions since 1989.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, the legislature expanded access to necessary medical care for certain minors by passing LD 535.<sup>2</sup> Both require informed, written consent by the minor, as well as the provision of information and counseling by a health professional before receiving care. Additionally, both recognize that parents are ideally involved and supportive when making health care decisions. However, when that is not possible, these laws provide mechanisms for people to receive the health care that they need, preserving their right to bodily autonomy and self-determination. LD 380 would end this access for people in need of gender-affirming care.

“Liberty presumes an autonomy of self...”<sup>3</sup> Bodily autonomy is a fundamental right guaranteed to Mainers through the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and international human rights law. The right to bodily autonomy includes the right to make our own medical decisions about our bodies, so long as those decisions do not endanger others.

Access to health care, including gender-affirming health care, is crucial to gender equity and true bodily autonomy. Current law allows older teenagers a measure of bodily autonomy by allowing them access to gender-affirming hormone therapy when either their parent or guardian gives consent, or when a qualified health care professional has determined it is in a patient’s best interest to make that decision for themselves.

We urge you to maintain current law and uphold the right of 16- and 17-year-old trans teenagers to receive the care they need by voting ought not to pass on LD 380.

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<sup>1</sup> See 22 MRS §1597-A.

<sup>2</sup> Codified at 22 M.R.S. § 1508.

<sup>3</sup> *Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558, 562 (2003).