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Testimony in Support of LD 1025:

“An Act To Prohibit the Provision of Conversion Therapy to Minors by Certain Licensed Professionals”

David G. Webbert, Esq.
April 10, 2019

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

My name is David Webbert and I am a partner in the civil and workers’ rights law firm of Johnson, Webbert & Young, LLP, with offices in Augusta and Portland.

Our firm feels so strongly about the importance and soundness of LD 1025 in protecting the human rights of Mainers that it has authorized me to present this testimony in support of its passage.

The science is overwhelming that permitting conversion therapy on minors is child abuse that can cause serious and long-lasting harm to the victims.

And the harms are compounded because the victims are singled out for this abuse based on the perceived desirability of changing their sexual orientation, an essential aspect of a human’s identity.

Thus, prohibiting conversion therapy is necessary to implement the declared “policy of this State,” in our Human Rights Act, “[t]o protect the public health, safety and welfare” by eliminating all “practices infringing on the basic human right to a life with dignity” and to prevent discrimination on account of sexual orientation. 5 M.R.S. §4552.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this testimony. My firm and I would be glad to provide any assistance the Committee might find helpful.