

MAINE RIGHT TO LIFE

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 227: An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

March 4, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Jennifer White and I am the new Executive Director for Maine Right to Life. We support the dignity and worth of every human life at all stages and actively promote positive choices and alternatives that defend life.

LD 227 would be a great detriment to our state for numerous reasons. It proposes to make gender affirming and reproductive health care services a LEGAL RIGHT not just in Maine but for ALL states and territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Who will be footing the bill for this proposed legal right? To say it simply, Maine would become a sanctuary state for abortion and transgender medical care—at the expense of Maine taxpayers and that’s just the tip of the iceberg. Because of the broad definitions used and the absence of ‘required medical necessity’, this legal right could cover everything from gender dysphoria, mental health services, prosthetics and chest binders, abortion up to full term, and in vitro fertilization. The financial debt this could place on taxpayers is astounding.

This bill also violates the rights of parents and puts minors at great risk of interstate trafficking with no possible legal repercussions. LD 227 hides minor age victims of kidnapping by providing them with a confidential address to use. A child could be brought across state lines to Maine against the will or knowledge of a parent and have life altering surgery and the state would strip away any legal right that a parent has to interfere. What about minors who are given life altering medical services and later have a change of heart? Is the state prepared to shoulder the fallout? Or was this bill written to protect the state by stripping away the legal rights for victims to sue? Would the majority of Maine families support such an ominous bill? I do not believe so. It is a disaster for our state.

I believe that overall Maine people appreciate honesty and transparency. Yet any Maine taxpayer who tried to look up this proposed bill as of yesterday could not find it to read. But here we are.... having a public hearing on a bill that says it’s a “concept draft” online and the 21-page amendment is not publicly posted. This is totally unacceptable, and the people of Maine deserve so much better.

Please vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 227.

Thank you,

Jennifer White
Executive Director
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