



Christian Civic League of Maine

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Maine Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Mike McClellan, Policy Director for the Christian Civic League of Maine. The Christian Civic League of Maine envisions a state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished. We believe a Biblical approach works in life and including in governance.

I am here to testify against LD 1040, An Act to Require Reimbursement for Gender-Affirming Care for Maine-Care Members sponsored by Rep. Moonen. It is very sad to be here watching some in government again work to enable unhealthy behaviors in a way that affects, in this case children as well as adults. That we would be considering a bill that would make it easier to do things that cannot be repaired. I cannot be that much older than many of you - how do we not all see that children in their teen years are uncomfortable in their bodies. They want to be adults as quick as possible. Just watching movies we can see that past strategies to gain adulthood for kids include teens smoking, teens having sex, teens driving fast and other such behaviors. These strategies did not work, the kids often had to learn through growing pains. Many of us traveled that road.

Past studies of children show that 80% of teenage “confused” kids are married and are in a traditional relationship 10 years later. More recent studies seem to have changed the number slightly downward but I have to wonder if adult encouragement is the reason for the change? I was drawn to the Keira Bell story a few years ago when this assault on our kids was beginning to ramp up. Living in England, she had a typical tomboy story and then as a mid-teen, felt alone.

In a quick sense, the adults in her life encouraged her to transition. She talks

about a few “superficial” conversations with medical people, then she quickly moved forward. Parents, Dr.’s, therapists, counselors all in support. She had surgeries and became a life as a “man.” However, she soon realized the issues troubling her life remained. In quick time she began the detransition process.

The consequences of what happened to her have been profound: possible infertility, loss of my breasts and inability to breastfeed, atrophied genitals, a permanently changed voice, facial hair. She now, like many who took these destructive steps, is an advocate against the surgery process. When I give blood, I must read a large booklet of all the issues associated with giving blood. It is simply amazing to me that in areas like abortion and transitioning...we do not feel the need to share the implications and possible consequences.

I focused on children but feel the same for adults. Again, looking to Europe we see this has come and is beginning to turn as people and even governments in Europe are realizing the implications of endorsing surgeries to change bodies in ways that cannot be repaired. Please do not endorse this bill that would do such harm to people who in fact need real support systems. Vote ought not to pass on LD 1040

Thank you for your time and consideration today.

Know that many are hopeful of your actions and are praying for you and your families. God bless,

Mike

Mike McClellan

Policy Director

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