

Kathy Johnson
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LD 1735

To the members of the Judiciary Committee:

Do not support LD1735, support families and children instead.

Under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (the UCCJEA), Maine is obligated to respect the child custody decisions made in other states just as other states are obligated to respect ours. The UCCJEA must not be ignored and risk our state being sued by loving parents who's children were taken from innocent parents. Until and unless the parents are found to be abusive in a court of law -- they remain innocent. No child deserves to be taken from parents who have not been ruled abusive by a court of proper jurisdiction.

Consider the mental and physical health of the minor child as if he or she were your own flesh and blood and DO NOT subject them to unnecessary medical procedures or deem the custodial parents as abusive for wanting to keep their child healthy and whole. We all want ourselves to remain healthy as we raise our own children, keeping children from loving parents harms the parents as well as the child. A child cannot consent to being a ward of our state or taken from their loving parents. Many regret the alterations to their bodies -- mutilating one child is one too many. No child should be sentenced to be a patient for life just so they can express their personal style, wardrobes and hairstyles are not sex-specific.

Let children be loved, not mutilated.

Sincerely, Kathy Johnson, Monson, Maine.