

Deborah Milite  
Freeport  
LD 1735

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Committee on the Judiciary:

I am Deborah Milite of Freeport, Maine, and I strongly oppose LD 1735, An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care. There are so many reasons why this bill should not pass, and in the interests of time I will focus on (1) the child's particular part in this and (2) the parents' particular rights in this as in the best interest in and love for their child.

At age 71 and having been a child, I can attest that children can be gullible, especially wanting to please those they admire, and inexperienced, prone to follow the latest trends among their peers, or in these perilous times, TikTok influencers with their CCP backers. They follow the crowd, especially in adolescence and particularly if they have anxiety or lack self-assurance. For many decisions, children just do not have the experience and knowledge, AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF OUTCOME to make a decision, particularly one about changing their sex (if that is even possible without a brain or chromosomal change) that entails irreparable consequences. If the matter were a change in hair color or bedroom decor, such a choice can be changed again or restored if found unpleasing or tiresome. One's original male or female sexuality can never be restored to what it was pre chemical or surgical alteration. There are many people who have transitioned as children who regret having done so and want to but cannot fully detransition.

I ask if you have listened to any of these regretful detransitioners. The proverbial egg cannot be unscrambled. Furthermore, how can anyone, teacher, social worker, doctor, TikTok Chinese owner Byte Dance, or any other person or organization or business or industry with a TRANSITORY interest in a child, DARE to take the responsibility and bear the consequences of encouraging or acquiescing to that child to make such a radical, irreversible change to themselves? AND, that is where parents come in, who know and love their children, and want the best for them, even to withholding from their child something the child insists they want that the parent knows is not good or appropriate for their child at that time or perhaps at no time. Why would anyone allow the most consequential and irreversible decision a child can make, to its sexuality, to be their own inexperienced, uninformed, decision? Children simply do not have the capacity to make such decision before they reach adulthood. And any transitory professional who assists a child or adolescent to make such a radical decision is simply negligent at best and criminally liable at worst. Not to mention, a transitioning person becomes dependent on, in effect slave to, medicines or hormones or surgery, for the rest of their lives.

Finally, from time immemorial societies have acknowledged and granted parents the right and responsibility of making important decisions before the age of majority, just as parents are responsible for the financial costs of raising of their children. This must remain the standard because neither the State nor some teacher nor doctor has the overall permanent charge and love of the child. There is a nefarious intent afoot in denying parents the authority over the child they love.

Therefore, because of the irreversibility, the permanence of the chemical, hormonal and surgical changes made to a child's body, the child must not be the one making such a decision before the age of majority. It is for these child and parent-related reasons, and for so many more reasons, that I urge that this bill LD 1735 OUGHT NOT TO PASS.

Thank you.  
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