

Katie Wieninger  
Cherryfield  
LD 1735

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

My name is Katie Wieninger of Cherryfield, Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am writing to urge you to vote against LD 1735, An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care, on the grounds that it is detrimental to children, violates parental rights, and protects kidnappers, predators, and child-traffickers.

First, it is unethical to allow a child to be surgically mutilated and genetically altered. The state recognizes that children are not capable of making permanent life-altering decisions in areas such as marriage, getting a tattoo, buying cigarettes, signing a contract, etc. Even more relevant, Maine state law sets the Age of Consent at sixteen, meaning that anyone under the age of sixteen is legally unable to consent to a sexual act. Anybody who engages in a sexual act with a child (with or without their consent) is guilty of a crime and can be prosecuted. By the same standards, I would argue that anybody who sexually alters a child, with or without their consent, is guilty of a crime. They should be prosecuted, not protected by a bill such as LD1735. Adults who make the decision to have hormonal therapy and castrations or double mastectomies in an attempt to alter their biological sex often regret their decisions and mourn their loss of fertility. Forcing children to live with the irreversible physical and emotional scars and side effects of such mutilation is unethical and abusive.

Secondly, parents have a God-given right and responsibility to raise and to protect their children from those who would harm them. Passing LD 1735 will strip parents, both in and out of Maine, of that right and give government an unconstitutional amount of power. By wrongfully classifying the refusal of gender-affirming practices as mistreatment or abuse, children can be taken or kept out of loving homes simply because their parents do not want them to be mutilated, given hormone-altering drugs, or brainwashed into believing the lie that they are a sex that they are not.

Thirdly, LD 1735 will offer protection to anybody who claims that they are helping a child get gender affirming health care. This would make Maine a safe-haven for every child predator and trafficker who uses that pass phrase, and the law would have no legal grounds to rescue children from those abusers, even if they came from a state with laws that prohibited the gender altering procedures of minors. LD 1735 will literally make it possible for anybody to abduct a child, encourage people to confuse and mutilate children, and set a precedent for the state to strip parents of custody.

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Maine Committee on Judiciary, on behalf of the majority of voters who oppose this bill, I beg you to protect our kids from becoming lab rats in this Frankenstein-like experiment to alter God's design. Do not pass LD1735. Thank you for your time.