

Isabelle Schmidt
Bowdoin
LD 1735

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Isabelle Schmidt from Bowdoin. I would like to address LD 1735.

Of utmost concern, this bill's provisions would deny our nation's citizens the freedom of speech and religion enshrined in the 1st Amendment of America's Constitution. The infringement of this country's parents' rights in the exercise of freedom of religion and speech before their own children couldn't be more evident than in LD 1735. This in itself should stop the bill in its tracks.

For many reasons, most parents would not agree to raising gender-dysphoric children by implementation of the binding of still developing sex-related body parts, the ingestion of dangerous and irreversible drugs, breast and genital removal surgery and psychological manipulation with indoctrinating ideology. Parental protection of their children from such extreme measures does not constitute abuse and would not begin to justify our state taking custody of a child in place of a parent. On the contrary, it is the supposed protection of the children in ways suggested by this bill which indicates abuse, so what parent wouldn't seek to protect their child from such a state, should LD 1735 become law? If passed, this bill would also set a precedent for the government to take children away from parents for any reason next deemed suitable and convenient in the future. Such a law would not only prove destructive to children and families, but to humanity itself. While purporting to protect them, taking advantage of people of all ages and roles in their weakest time of life seems to be a specialty of this administration.

And yet, this bill also champions criminals. Allowing Maine to become a sanctuary state for those who knowingly break the law in their own state, through kidnapping and performing gender-transitioning treatments upon children there, clearly annuls another state's right to exercise legal authority over its own residents. This eradicates the concept of law and order itself in our country. How does Maine or any state have legal jurisdiction over the rest of the Union? Whether Maine would be the first state or the fiftieth to implement such a thing, it should be illegal, especially where the true safety and well-being of children are concerned. In addition, it is dangerous as a precedent when such power may subsequently be used against Maine for any reason another state sees fit. As more states of different political leanings adopt this sanctuary state tactic in defense of ideology, we can see what national contention it would lead to. What about the effect of that consequence upon young people? Think long-term. Such harm outweighs the harm of far more reasonable and preferable measures taken in response to gender-dysphoric children. Instead, we ought to simply convince them with care and love to wait until they are of legal age before participating in life-changing alterations to mind and body. This they already have to do to legally drink alcohol, get a tattoo, drive, vote, or defend our country, among other things.

Speaking of children, within this bill, a child is not even defined by age. Nothing is stipulated here in LD 1735 that would bar a 2 year-old from being taken in as a ward of the state for the purposes of "gender affirming care." After all, there are some people who think it true that children of such a tender age know themselves to be of a different gender than originally defined. To those among us who are so hell-bent on ruining the psyches of our young with these indoctrinating, often permanent acts, stop co-opting words like "care" and "health" into contexts that are actually opposite to their intended meaning. The only ones who are fooled are these children this bill pretends to serve but actually harms.

The overreach of this bill is absolutely appalling in all its aspects. Such immense powers, once established, would then be instrumental in implementing any

ideological agenda. Maine residents should petition those who could affect an investigation into the dealings behind this relentless push to ruin children and families in particular. This is unspeakable dystopian overreach, and we won't stand for it! For these reasons and others, vote "ought not to pass" LD 1735.

Thank you.