

Kristen Day
Windham
LD 1735

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kristen Day, and I'm mother of three, my youngest a freshman. I was born and raised in Maine, and have been a resident of Windham for 20 years. I am writing today in opposition of LD1735.

My daughter's close girlfriend at the time came out as trans during covid. He is one of the lucky ones who was raised to be strong, and is smart enough not to make permanent chemical or physical changes while he is still growing. His parents do not acknowledge his gender for personal reasons and he understands it is a hard change for everyone. They are a loving family with understandable problems, and he is thriving. Real life is complicated, and State legislature cannot rightfully presume to step in and make life-altering decisions for parents for their children.

The loose definitions in this bill will lead to the destruction of otherwise healthy family units and will enable Maine's most vulnerable children (no age limit is given) to be subjected to irreparable changes, often harmful. This bill is not a reasonable step to achieving optimal health and mental health care for children with gender dysphoria. It is a nuclear option that puts parent's rights and children themselves on the chopping block right here in Maine – and for children across the nation since Maine would be a Sanctuary State. This is not the kind of industry that Maine needs.

If health care or mental health care is not given to a “child” by their parents, they may become wards of the state. THIS IS RADICAL. Does mental health care mean a parent not acknowledging their new perceived gender? This is a very new phenomenon for Mainers to adapt to, and this bill makes it up to the court's discretion to how parents respond to their children's troubles. Most Mainers, myself included, would 100% love and support their child, but would want to encourage their child to seek healthcare for gender dysphoria and more importantly, underlying contributing issues, and do anything possible to delay chemical and physical changes until they are adults. We cannot govern based on a political wave of social blackmail.

My whole life I have lived in Maine - that was Vacationland, and “The Way Life Should Be.” This bill is one of several that are radical moves that will drastically change the fabric of Maine on a dime under the nose of most Mainers. A vote to pass this bill is grossly overstepping the trust given to Representatives and Senators to govern Maine for what is best for our people.

Please vote no on LD135. Thank you for your consideration.