

Jonathan Schmidt
Bowdoin
LD 1735

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Jon Schmidt, I am a resident of Bowdoin, and I am submitting this testimony to express my strongest OPPOSITION to LD 1735.

This bill is frankly so frightening in its nefarious objectives, perversion of the law, and authoritarian overreach, I hardly know where to begin citing its alarming faults. LD 1735 is clearly intended to establish Maine as a magnet for minors seeking to change their natural-born sexual characteristics, even if doing so directly contravenes the will of those minors' parents. In an attempt to "justify" this policy, the bill inserts legal wording which preposterously classifies parental objection to "gender-affirming health care" as child abuse. The bill even goes so far as to protect extra-parental persons from legal consequences for illicitly aiding and abetting children to "escape" from the custody of their own parents and cross into Maine (in an honest world, this would be called "trafficking") for the purpose of what this bill perversely calls "gender-affirming health care". Finally, it encourages scofflaws from other states to migrate to Maine by affording a legal phalanx of protections to those lawbreakers from prosecution and extradition for violations committed in their home states. Were this bill to pass, each and every state so disrespected would justifiably retaliate pointedly and forcefully.

Every one of these proposed measures is disturbing beyond measure and should seriously alarm every Mainer who understands the damage they would inflict, and the dangerous precedents they would set.

Parental involvement in decisions regarding their minor children's physical and mental health is indispensable. The prospect of this state actually encouraging troubled, confused, sometimes mentally disturbed, juveniles to run away from their parents, and co-opting those juveniles as wards of the state, for the express purpose of performing irreversible physiological alterations on them through chemical ingestion and anatomical mutilation, is unspeakably horrifying, both in terms of its humanitarian impact and its legal implications.

How can such an outrageous nullification of parental rights and responsibilities by the state even be considered? In what twisted world should vulnerable minors be not only allowed, but encouraged, to make life-altering decisions without parental guidance, approval, and support? How arrogant, devious, and reckless must advocates of these measures be that they would purport know to what is "better" for children's well-being than the children's own parents, and who would wield the power of the state to divide children from their parents for the sake of advancing their nightmarish ideological fixation?

Such authoritarian overreach and disregard of human dignity may be standard in North Korea, but it has no place in Maine. Not a Maine I want to live in, at least. This bill has not a single redeeming feature; it is wrong-headed, dangerous, and destructive.

Please vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS. Thank you.