

Linda McMahon
Harpwell
LD 1735

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Linda McMahon. I am a concerned citizen of the great State of Maine I am writing in opposition to LD 1735 - An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care. I am requesting you vote "Ought Not to Pass" for the following reasons. Maine should not seek to be in the business of becoming a transgender sanctuary for out of state children. This proposal breaches parental rights and puts the affected children in extreme jeopardy.

Maine cannot even take care of its own wards. Maine ranks #1 in neglect or in the sanitized term "child maltreatment." How can Maine caseworkers be expected to take on additional cases when they are already overworked and understaffed? In addition, the exhausted caseworkers continue to wait for the Governor to remedy the long-standing present chaos. On another note, our legal system is already severely bogged down with no resolution in sight.

Maine ranks worst in US for child maltreatment, report says | newscentermaine.com
AUGUSTA, Maine — The Kids Count data book shows there are 4,263 Maine children who were abused in 2020. That's up from 3,286 in 2017.

Maine children continue to struggle in pandemic's wake (yahoo.com)

The number of children confirmed to have experienced maltreatment increased 30% in Maine between 2017 and 2021, from 3,286 to 4,263. In 2020, Maine's rate of child maltreatment was more than double the national average, with 19 per 1,000 children experiencing maltreatment compared to 8.4 per 1,000 on the national level.

Science is not on the side of gender-altering surgery for children. Little is known about the long-term effects of "puberty-blockers." It is known these drugs, GnRH analogs, which the children will need for the rest of their lives, can cause osteoporosis, increase of blood clotting- which can result in heart attacks and strokes, infertility, and sterility. These are not insignificant risks.

It is well known that the frontal lobe of children's brains is not fully developed before age 18. The frontal lobe is responsible for planning, decision making, and the ability to recognize consequences of actions. So how can children be capable of understanding the relevance of these decisions? Who will bear the responsibility of informed consent necessary for this irreversible surgery? In a recent conversation with a teenager about school transgender conversations at school, there was shock in learning that transgender surgery involved the removal of genitals and/or breasts. Apparently, that "detail" was not mentioned.

Lack of procedure standards is another pitfall. In the 1990s at the hospital where I worked bariatric surgery patients had to complete a medical checklist before surgery was done. It included a psychological profile to assess the patient's readiness to resulting drastic transformation.

Let us not confuse the importance of children's mental and medical health with the self-serving activism desires of parents, teachers, counselors, and lawmakers.

Legal aspects-Will the taxpayers of Maine be held liable in the legal wrangling of all the disputes from custody cases, court orders, subpoenas and malpractice suits that undoubtedly result because of this proposal?

As a last note, all the lawmakers who recently proclaimed that the government should not be involved in patients' medical decisions-why would they support this unethical proposal?

Please vote "Ought Not to Pass" LD 1735

Respectfully,
Linda McMahon
Harpwell

