

March 5, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Legislative Health Care, Insurance and Financial Services Committee,

I am Theresa Blackadar and have been a Registered Nurse for 32 years. I am here today to testify against LD 227.

Allow me to begin with two questions:

What is the benefit of the State of Maine becoming a Sanctuary state for abortion and transgender medical interventions?

Should this bill, LD 227 be voted on by the citizens of Maine due to the enormous ramifications it has on children and families?

My concerns regarding transgender medical interventions:

1. The development and maturation of the prefrontal cortex of the brain is not fully accomplished until a person is in their mid to late 20's. This area of the brain is directly responsible for sound and rational decision making and not a young person's emotions while experiencing gender dysphoria which they may likely outgrow.
2. Experimental gender procedures including puberty blockers and hormones that are given to adolescents are often damaging and potentially irreversible.
3. For both boys and girls there is a direct effect on the strength and density of bones and bone formation. These drugs negatively affect bone mineral density.
4. Administering Testosterone to girls can significantly increase the overall risk of cancer, type II diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and other metabolic diseases.
5. Administering feminizing hormones to boys such as Estrogen can cause blood clots, high levels of triglycerides, high blood pressure, type II diabetes, cancers, and stroke.
6. The two most common puberty blocking drugs, Histrelin Acetate and Leuprolide Acetate have various untoward effects such as headaches, dizziness, seizures, anger, irritability to name a few...
7. Surgical procedures permanently alter a youth's body and are extreme. How many of us have known a woman with breast cancer needing a radical mastectomy? There can be complications such as infection and lymphedema which compromise the immune system. Our youth cannot fully comprehend the permanent disfigurement or seriousness of such a decision. Their prefrontal cortex is not fully developed.

Due to these concerns, the elimination of parental involvement as LD 227 promotes in the medical decision making for their children is a direct violation of parental rights.

Consequently, these children will become adults who will become "lifelong patients" in our already overburdened healthcare system. Our children and adolescents simply do not have the ability to make such life altering decisions.

Lastly, since last springs bill LD 1619, this bill LD 227 intends to enlarge the impact by stripping away parental rights by taking youth from other states for both abortions and the above-mentioned gender confused medical interventions. It will turn Maine into a slaughterhouse. Maine citizens have a right to vote on this. So many of Maine citizens are completely unaware of this public hearing today. They elected you and trusted you to safeguard them and their families.

Consider your own doubts. There is insufficient evidence to prove LD 227 is beneficial to Maine children and families.

If your conscious discerns any flaws or even the slightest negligence in this bill, you have reasonable doubt. Respectfully, I plead with you to oppose LD 227.

Thank you for listening,
Theresa Blackadar RN
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