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LD 227

With this testimony, I oppose the passage of LD 227.

As a Developmental Pediatrician (now retired) who has spent over 30yrs advocating and caring for children in the state of Maine, this bill is contrary to all the training and experience I have in caring for children and their families!

In my work I cared for children with a history of prematurity( the youngest being 24 and 4/7 weeks, who was born after an aborted abortion), chronic illness, and disability.

This bill is disrespectful to the " other lives" in the abortion debate. It is also disrespectful to physicians who take seriously our Hippocratic Oath. Although I understand the Hippocratic Oath has been "modernized" and may allow less conflict in the souls of younger physicians. We would do well to consider the origin of the Hippocratic Oath, written to the times when life was expendable.

Another aspect of my training and experience as a Developmental Pediatrician, is to support children and their families as they navigate the multitude of issues they encounter in the maturing process. Our goal as physicians and parents is to guide but also protect children until they are at a maturity level when informed and wise decisions can be made. This bill aborts this process in the areas of abortion and gender affirming care. The medical and surgical treatments for gender transitioning are not without their complications, both medical and emotional. The same is true with abortions.

We all would do well to adhere to the guidance "first do no harm" and to recognize the wisdom of Thomas Merton- "Be human in this most inhuman of ages; guard well the image of man for it is the image of God".

Many people that I have talked with, as it relates to LD 227, think that the legislators supporting this bill "need to have their heads examined". I would counter, they need to have their souls examined. It seems that these legislators have no (or have forsaken) their " internal moral compass" and instead have given themselves to the agenda of the political party.

Please think for yourselves!!