

Charlotte Paolini
Biddeford
LD 227

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services:

I am Charlotte Paolini, D.O., and I am a board certified family medicine physician practicing in Maine intermittently since my graduation from residency training at Eastern Maine Medical Center in 1992. I represent the American Academy of Medical Ethics and many of my Maine colleagues as I testify in opposition to LD 227. I am dismayed that esteemed Maine legislators would support and promote a bill as dangerous as LD 227. It is dangerous because, as recent studies show, "gender-affirming" models "were based and unreliable."(1) In summary, it has been found that "gender reassignment of minors is an experimental practice" and should be postponed "until adulthood."(2)

It grieves me that our great state of Maine chooses, yea endorses(!) the killing and mutilation of our most vulnerable citizens, the preborn and children/minors. Other countries, Finland, Sweden, the U.K., have done the hard work of looking at the science and have backed off and even stopped these "gender affirming" therapies and surgeries. "Medical organizations are supposed to transcend politics in favor of upholding standards that protect patients. However, in the U.S. these groups - including the American Academy of Pediatrics - have been actively hostile to the message" (3) from our colleagues across the pond. I entreat you, please do not be hostile to the science and the truth around these issues of health and life. I am expected, as a physician, to know the science behind the medicine that I prescribe. I trust that you will do as much by upholding the standards that protect the citizens of Maine, the citizens that you represent, and vote "Ought not to pass" on LD 227.

1,2,3: Kaltiala, Rittakerttu, "Gender Affirming Care is Dangerous", The Free Press, March 5, 2024