

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the health coverage, insurance, and finance services committee, my name is Amber Lavigne of Newcastle, and I'm speaking today in opposition of LD 227.

In the fall of 2022, my incredibly impressionable daughter was taken advantage of and abused by a transgender social worker employed by AOS93 schools in Damariscotta, Maine. This social worker shared his personal medical journey with my barely 13-year-old daughter, convincing her that her path to happiness had already been beaten, by him. He shared with her how unhappy he was, until he began to medicalize his once healthy, female body. He led her to believe she too could obtain happiness, all she had to do was jump on a medical conveyer belt. He also shared with her that without this care, she would likely become suicidal. Data aside, which does not support the suicide myth, let's think about this from an ethical standpoint. How is it clinically sound to tell vulnerable kids that they will kill themselves if they don't get what they want?

This social worker received a letter of guidance from the licensing board, outlining that he provided inappropriate care to my child after I placed a complaint on his license for abusing my child. This bill takes that power away from the licensing board, leaving it to the government to decide whether mental health professionals are providing appropriate care to our children. A government who has zero mental health training. Does that make sense? Do you feel equip to provide mental health supports to our young people? For most of you, the answer is probably no. The mental health field has never had a "one size fits all" solution to any mental health problem, why is this different? Mental health problems are unique to each person and complex, requiring careful thought and consideration, why is gender dysphoria any different?

I feel fortunate. Fortunate that my daughter was experiencing this before the government was pushing children to make really difficult decisions without the guidance of their parents. Imagine

taking your child to a PCP appointment and having them ask your 12 year old questions about body discomfort, and planting the seed that that discomfort may stem from being “born in the wrong body.” I feel fortunate that she is realizing that she was abused and used as a political ploy to further an agenda she wasn’t, and still isn’t, mature enough to understand. I feel sad that she continues to have this agenda pushed on her at school, at her medical appointments, and from political activists because it is incredibly distressing to her.

I sent you all files compiled by Michael Shellenberger, an American journalist who was leaked information from a whistleblower within WPATH, who provide what many consider to be the standard of care for people experiencing gender dysphoria. These files outline the atrocious medical scandal we are currently experiencing, and I beg you all to comb through these before blindly choosing to be a part of this scandal that is damaging our children.