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Ought Not To Pass: Speaking in against LD 394

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about this bill.

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you today to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 394.

I am the father of three awesome children who are all different and incredible young people in their own right. They all attended Great Salt Bay School in Damariscotta, a school that has recently made national headlines for guiding a 13-year-old girl down the path of gender transition without her mother knowing about it. It's frightening to think that if this or another unqualified social worker were to have interacted with one of my children, they might have been able to make my child uncomfortable or unhappy with who they are instead of making them happy and content with who they are.

The children of Maine have suffered enough over the past several years, primarily because of decisions that were made by the government to take our children out of schools, to mask them in their developing years and segregate and divide the children while calling it diversity, equity, and inclusion. So yes, the children do need help, now more than ever, but the solution should not add fuel to the fire.

Parents should always have a say in every aspect of their child's life. It is always true that there are different ways to tackle problems, but if you try to hide the problem from the parent, who is in charge, you are going down a road that will be extremely hard to repair, if indeed it can ever be repaired. Even if your solution might be better, if that solution is not executed properly, and within the guidance and knowledge of the parent, you will create a rift in the family that will cause more harm than good.

If you are intent on passing legislation to hide what social workers will do to a child, which right now appears to have no limits, when are you going to bring the child's family in on the grand scheme? Decisions are being made on a child's whim that may cause lifelong, irreparable damage.

Before a child sees a social worker, the parent needs to be informed. After permission is given, and the child sees the social worker, the parent needs to continue to be informed. When someone is choosing a doctor, or a psychologist, or any other professional, you will always want to pick one who aligns with your beliefs. If one cannot be provided at school that does align with the parents' beliefs, I would rather go with none, or handle the matter privately.

As you write this bill, or any other version thereof, please put strong limitations on anyone that may interact with Maine's children, and never let them act in the dark by keeping secrets from the parents. Please vote Ought Not To Pass. Thank you.