

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Committee on Judiciary

I am Hadassah Beal of Cherryfield, Maine, and I am here in strong opposition of LD 1735, An act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care

It is incredibly sad and a disgrace to our State that we are even considering such a abhorrent bill. This bill removes the God-given authority of parents over their children and legalizes so many evils. God gave children to parents, not to the state, a school teacher, a social worker, or anyone else. A minor is not allowed to get a tattoo, go to a tanning salon, or purchase medications, but we are seeking to allow these same minors to make a life-changing decision that will affect them forever, and that can rarely be reversed, without the permission of their parents? A child is not ready to make such a decision on their own without *parental* advice, and no other adult has the right to take this into their hands.

Another huge problem with this bill is the allowance for children to be removed from their parent's custody, and making it so Maine courts cannot do anything about it. Again, I repeat, children belong to their parents, and the state has no right to meddle in the affairs of parents who are protecting their children from a terrible, life-altering surgery.

Maine does not need to become a "sanctuary state" for those who are seeking these gender-manipulating services.

God created each one of us to be either male or female, for a specific purpose. To try to change one's gender by using medications and surgeries is immoral, and it is severely misusing the gift of medicine and medical knowledge.

I love my country and my state, but I am saddened and greatly disappointed by the path we are taking in Maine. We are turning our state into a place that I cannot be proud of. Please, do not continue to vote for bills that harm our citizens, disgrace us in the eyes of other states, and most of all, grieve the Lord. We cannot expect for our state to be blessed by God if we insist on allowing and doing these things that are an abomination to Him. Maine will be judged for our grievous sins. I urge you to please vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 1735. Thank you for your time.