

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Sandra Labonte and I live in Searsport. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony and for your serving the State of Maine.

I stand here today opposed to LD 1735, An Act to Safeguard Gender Affirming Health Care.

What is our state thinking? Is it not better to affirm the gender they were born with? This is a war on our children! Allowing or promoting the mutilization of their outside private body parts, and a hormone pill to wreak havoc inside as well, is not love or concern for our children.

In addition to surgery and the pills, puberty blockers are also prescribed to prevent puberty from starting. This means that it must be done at very young ages. They are known to be the cause of decreased bone density and halted height growth. We're talking about 9-10 year old girls and slightly older boys. This is child abuse!

Whatever happened to science and the eternal truth that we are born as either male or female? But suddenly we apparently have new revelation, new right and new truth.

Should we shun those children who are confused about their sex? Of course not. We should affirm what they actually are biologically by science and guide them as they go through this confusing time of growth until they are of an adult age and can make their own decisions. We should treat them with kindness, understanding and compassion to help them see dignity in themselves.

This legislation will cause a division between vulnerable minor children and their parents. Parents spend years guiding and caring for their children, helping them to make safe choices as they grow into adulthood. Laws like this and other societal influences are stripping this God-given responsibility from us.

What is the basis for this current bill? It is a "Welcome sign for those living in other states and a money-making opportunity for the state of Maine and Medical Centers in Maine.

Let's give our children time to mature in body and mind without interfering with the natural process.

Thank you for your time.

Please vote "**Ought NOT to pass**".