



THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

Testimony of Senator Stacey Guerin
In opposition to L.D. 1735, An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Healthcare
Before the Judiciary Committee
May 12, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary I am Senator Stacey Guerin and I represent District 4, which includes all of Piscataquis County and 11 communities in Penobscot County Please accept my testimony in opposition to L D 1735, *An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Healthcare*

You've heard testimony today of why this law should be passed In that testimony, you've heard of the wealth of benefits such legislation would provide to a small segment of the population What you didn't hear, however, are the risks this bill is to our society

I will inform you of those societal risks now

First, this bill directly threatens the sanctity of parental rights, enshrined in many of our laws and those in other states This bill not only threatens to destroy those rights, but also the societal fabric and norms that order our society Parents and the family unit are the foundational fabrics of our society

Second, this bill radically threatens our systems of due process, law enforcement, and the legal system I'll go into several reasons why

- As written, the bill will render any ability to enforce Amber Alerts obsolete All a parent who has kidnapped a child from another state would have to do is make it to the state line, claim he or she brought the child here for gender-affirming care, and claim asylum from the other jurisdiction
- It would prevent law enforcement from acting on legitimate subpoenas or warrants that may not be based on any gender-affirming healthcare simply by the parent claiming it is
- It would encourage at-risk minors to flee to Maine for any reason and prevent law enforcement from reunification with family simply by the minor claiming the reason is for gender-affirming care Then, the minor would be the responsibility of Maine taxpayers, including this transitional care
- For all of the reasons above, we may end up violating one or more Constitutional rights

And third, I ask Since when is the sterilization and mutilation of children ever acceptable? As a society, we've fought against the persecution, dehumanization, trafficking and exploitation of our precious children across this entire world Honorably, we have developed methods, practices and philosophies to protect them Why would we allow procedures that cannot easily be reversed and instead may have lifelong consequences and regret for our children?

This bill will do nothing but position the State of Maine as the child trafficking capital of the U S As well intentioned as the sponsors may be, we need to also be real about it

Please join me in protecting our children by opposing L D 1735