

March 05, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the HCIFS Committee,

My name is Clayton Quint of Hodgdon, Maine. I wish to speak today in opposition to proposed bill **LD227**, but would like to preface my concerns by first reading a few verses from the Bible found in **Mark chapter 9 verses 35-37**. And He (Jesus Christ) sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, *the same* shall be last of all, and servant of all. And He took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when He had taken him in His arms, He said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in My Name, receiveth Me: and whosoever shall receive Me, receiveth not Me, but Him that sent Me.

Now, I would like to ask the committee this question: Is the proposed bill known as **LD227** being discussed here today a representation of how the people of this State would wish to receive children unto ourselves? In light of the recent issues blatantly and glaringly made apparent in the State run DHS child foster care system, has the State, under the current leadership and administration, even been shown competent to make a decision in this matter that truly puts the needs and safety of children before their own political or personal agendas? And does this bill offer more protection to the health care providers, the so called "health rights", the courts, insurance providers, the "health practitioners", and the newly proposed "public policy" of the State, or to the children that the state will be receiving unto themselves if or once this legislation is enacted? I will answer that question. This bill seeks to protect the aforementioned entities before and at the expense of both the children and adults this State will be receiving upon the enactment of this bill.

In addition, **LD227** seeks to impede any efforts law enforcement in this State may wish to take to protect not only children, but *any* persons seeking care of their own, or by proxy of a guardian. If trafficking or kidnapping of children were taking place, upon enactment of this bill, if it was claimed such movement of children was due to a "legal right" or the "public policy" of the State, the ability of our law enforcement to intercede on behalf of the child would be severely restricted. **LD227** also appears to fundamentally change the subpoena process, and the process of discovery. I wish to conclude by very strongly urging and exhorting the members of this committee to do what is in their power to stop this reprehensible piece of legislation by voting ought not to pass on **LD227**, while thinking about how it is we as a State wish to both serve and receive children unto ourselves. Please consider the many ways this bill could negatively affect them. Thank you.