

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Robin Pellerin from Levant and I am testifying against LD 227, "An Act Regarding Health Care in the State."

I am testifying today against the amendment to LD 227. I am deeply unsettled by the idea that this amendment would allow our state to become a sanctuary state for disturbing medical practices that harm and/or destroy children. Also, I am upset by the way that this bill promotes divisions between our "United" States. It is poorly designed legislation that will not help the citizens of Maine, or the citizens of other states.

I will address my second concern here first. These United States have been held together through a delicate balance since the founding of our country. We have maintained the tension between being a united group of individual states with individual laws, and being a united national entity for over two and a quarter centuries with only one major war fought in direct response to this design. Our country requires a level of teamwork and respect between the states for this structure to continue to work well. Traditionally, it is democrats who hold these values of being united for the common good as a high priority. The way this bill sets up our state to subvert the authority of other states over its own citizens is honestly bewildering and a slap in the face to those states we profess unity with.

My primary concern is the way this "healthcare" discards the humanity of those it professes to help. An honest look at well-designed studies of the long-term effects of abortion and transgender care on the mental and physical health of those patients should be enough to precipitate legislation banning these practices, as they are rapidly tipping the current mental health crisis over the brink into a mental health disaster. Science isn't just real when you agree with the results, or if you have massaged the design or statistics to agree with your hypothesis. As both a parent and teacher, I am alarmed by these practices, and the actual effects of this "care."

As far as a little perspective about where law currently stands regarding the need for parents to consent to care given to children, I recently brought my 10-year-old daughter to the tattoo parlor to get her ears pierced and was sent away. I had not brought her birth certificate to be checked against my state-issued photo ID to provide legal proof that I was in a position to sign a consent form for an ear piercing for this child. The kind people at the tattoo parlor sent me and my \$50 off to city hall to please retrieve proof that this was okay. This bill would allow a staggering jump in what is currently allowed without parental consent.

The United States was a nation founded on principles of justice, tranquility, welfare, and liberty for all of its citizens. Do not tear at this fabric by undercutting the authority of our fellow states in the Union, undermining parental rights, and promoting that which has very damaging long-term effects on our citizens. Please vote "Ought Not to Pass" on the amended LD 227. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Robin Pellerin