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**THE MAINE SENATE**  
131st Legislature

**Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**  
**In Opposition to LD 227, "An Act Regarding Health Care in the State"**  
**March 5, 2024**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and esteemed members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, thank you for allowing me to speak against the amendment to LD 227, "An Act Regarding Health Care in the State." I am State Senator Stacey Guerin and I represent Senate District 4, which includes almost all of Piscataquis County and much of Penobscot County.

As amended, LD 227:

- Eliminates parental rights in all 50 states,
- Exacerbates sex trafficking,
- Allows state sanctioned kidnapping, AND
- Creates Maine as a sanctuary state for ALL abortion services and for ALL sex change treatments of minor children.

Who could ever believe that anyone would consider legalizing the bringing of a child from another state to Maine against the parent's wishes or even knowledge, effectively kidnapping a minor?

LD 1735 was a similar bill. It seems strange to me that we are again looking at a legalized child-kidnapping bill when such a similar bill was unanimously killed a few weeks ago in the Judiciary Committee. Sometimes we bring back a bill because the original bill was too broad. The opposite is true today. The Judiciary Committee killed LD 1735, which would have made legal the taking of a minor, without the parents' knowledge or permission, to another state in an effort to skirt the law in the home state in regard to sex change treatments.

The potential dangers to children and abuse of parental authority were seen as too great in the wisdom of the Judiciary Committee, causing all members to vote against the bill. Unfortunately, we are back today with a twenty page expansion of the same concept except that abortion procedures have been added and the committee of jurisdiction has been changed to Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

However, these changes do not change the fact that a child can be taken across state lines without the parents' knowledge or consent. Kidnapping of children by parties that may or may not have the best interests of the minor cannot be tolerated in our state or any other.

I strongly urge you to vote "ought not to pass." Thank you for your consideration.