



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Sen. Bailey, Rep. Perry and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

I'm Rep. Micky Carmichael and I'm offering this testimony in strong opposition to LD227. Not only do I believe that this is a morally bankrupt piece of legislation I also believe with all the legal ramifications it is outside the expertise of this committee. I also believe this is a violation of Article 1 Section 3 of the State of Maine Constitution which reads:

Section 3. Religious freedom; sects equal; religious tests prohibited; religious teachers. All individuals have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no person shall be hurt, molested or restrained in that person's liberty or estate for worshipping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of that person's own conscience, nor for that person's religious professions or sentiments, provided that that person does not disturb the public peace, nor obstruct others in their religious worship; -- and all persons demeaning themselves peaceably, as good members of the State, shall be equally under the protection of the laws, and no subordination nor preference of any one sect or denomination to another shall ever be established by law, nor shall any religious test be required as a qualification for any office or trust, under this State; and all religious societies in this State, whether incorporate or unincorporate, shall at all times have the exclusive right of electing their public teachers, and contracting with them for their support and maintenance.

Under the language of this bill someone who has deeply held religious beliefs against this behavior and raised their minor children accordingly could be guilty of criminal behavior thus infringing on their right to free exercise of their religion. I believe recent problems in DHHS prove the state is in no way ready or qualified to replace parents in providing safety and morality for our children.

Thank-you for your time.

Rep. Meldon "Micky" Carmichael

District 18 Amherst, Aurora, Beddington, Burlington, Cherryfield, Clifton, Deblois, Dedham, East Central Penobscot, Eastbrook, Great Pond, Greenbush, Lowell, Mariaville, North Washington (Part), Osborn, Otis and Passadumkeag, the unorganized territories of; East Hancock (Part), East Hancock (Part), Northwest Hancock, Grand Falls Township, Greenfield Township, Summit Townships, Day Block Township, Devereaux Township and Sakon Township