

**Cayford, Edna**

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**From:** Ashley Godbout <ashley.godbout@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 9:43 PM  
**To:** Bailey, Donna; Brakey, Eric; Reny, Cameron; Perry, Anne; Arford, Poppy; Cluchey, Sally; Cyrway, Scott; Mastraccio, Anne-Marie; Mathieson, Kristi; Morris, Joshua; Nutting, Robert; Pringle, Jane; Swallow, Gregory; HCIFS  
**Subject:** Testimony of Ashley Michaud - Against LD 227

**This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.**

Ashley Michaud  
Turner, Maine

### **Testimony of Ashley Michaud**

**Against LD 227 -**

### **An Act Regarding Health Care in the State**

Representative Perry and Senator Bailey, and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Ashley Michaud and I oppose LD 227. This is my first time submitting a testimony to our state representatives, as never before have I been so incredibly concerned for the well-being and safety of our children as I do with this bill. Allowing children to engage in medical procedures with potentially devastating long-term side effects without parental consent is unimaginable. Children are especially vulnerable and at a high risk of abuse from adults who do not have their best interest in mind. This bill would further increase the risk of children being victimized and in a situation where their parents have no control. As parents, know one knows our children better than we do. It is our responsibility to protect the rights of parents, allow them the ability to help their children navigate challenging and confusing periods in their lives as they feel is best for them and their family.

I am deeply concerned that Maine will become a haven for adults seeking to traffic children using this legal loophole to do so. As I look at my child, it is troubling that Legislatures feel I do not have the ability to parent my child. To think my child could be taken within the State of Maine and provided with life changing surgery without my consent is scary, and not representative of the values of the State I have called home my entire life. I urge you to reconsider this bill, as it is not going to protect children from their parents, it is only going to contribute to long-term emotional and physical trauma.

Regards,

Ashley Michaud