

Ruth Gauvin
Farmington, ME

Testimony of Ruth Gauvin
Against LD 227
An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

I oppose LD 227 because it undermines the authority of parents and it seeks to legitimize unlawful behavior. It is egregious.

Two questions arise: Why are you, as Maine legislators, so preoccupied with the sexual and gender preferences of others and why are you so concerned with the citizens of other states and protecting their "rights" when residents of the State of Maine are suffering with no relief in sight?

In Presque Isle a nursing care facility is closing forcing their families to find other living and care arrangements for their loved ones. This facility has been providing care to the elderly in Northern Maine for over half a century, but it can no longer remain viable due to lack of healthcare workers and insufficient reimbursement for services from Mainecare. In fact, according to the letter directed to the patients families 23 nursing homes have closed in the last ten years.

I am asking you to please, reprioritize what services are needed in the state of Maine. Should not the four freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Worship, and Freedom of Speech be considered a "legal right" in the State of Maine? I have always considered them to be. Access to health care reproductive and otherwise, is already available in our state. What is not readily available is quality long term care for the elderly near their families, mental health services, housing for our veterans, and a child protective agency that is able to effectively protect our children from abuse and untimely death at the hands of those in whom they have placed their trust. Please, put our tax money to use on services that will increase the quality of life for all of Maine's citizens. LD 227 is egregious and unnecessary! Please, for the sake of the future of Maine, focus on the existing needs of our citizens by providing appropriate services for our children, our veterans, our citizens with mental illness, and our elderly.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that you oppose LD 227.