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Statement by Penny Morrell  
To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Regarding  
LD 227 "An Act Regarding Health Care in the State"  
March 5, 2024

Sen. Bailey, Rep. Perry, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present before you today. I am Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of Belgrade, Maine.

I am opposed to LD 227.

There is so much wrong with this bill. **Let's start with the process.**

- The bill number is 227 out of over 2000 bills this session so it's been in the works all session, yet an unknown.
- It was "concept draft" and a hearing was held last year in that state, so there was no way to know what to support or oppose and we were left to guess.
- It remained in "concept draft" until just now with an amendment to tell what the proposal was in the last two months of the session with no time to study its merits or problems.
- There is a second hearing, unheard of in legislative processes.
- The hearing is on the same day as voting for president which is another hindrance to participate.

**Now, let's talk about the workings of the bill.**

- Parents have the SOLE ownership of their children, not the state! Only in Marxist/Communist countries would the government interfere with that parent/child relationship.
- Children need the protection of parents and the justice system which is taken away in this bill.
- Children don't know about sexuality and gender before puberty and some well after. They aren't capable of making life-altering decisions about their bodies on topics of this nature, and must not be brainwashed or programmed/indoctrinated in such matters in school or any other government entity.
- The Bible says: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Legislation like this is so anti-God, anti-American, anti-Family and look where it has led us, down the path to destruction.
- Children are a gift from God who ONLY has the right to take life from conception to natural death. This bill gives government that role at taxpayer expense even when most oppose it or at least support restrictions.

Please vote L.D. 227 "ought not to pass".