



Christian Civic League of Maine

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Maine Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Mike McClellan, Policy Director for the Christian Civic League of Maine. The Christian Civic League of Maine envisions a state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished. We believe a Biblical approach works in life and including in our governance. CCL Maine opposes all abortion and we oppose all child mutilation.

I am here to testify against LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State which was sponsored by Rep. Perry of House District 9. This legislation was listed as a "Concept Draft for a year and then suddenly, on Friday afternoon arrives as a 21-page amendment. As I read this, it is still listed as a "Concept Draft" at www.maine.gov Does that bother anyone other than me?

I tripped upon this quote over the weekend: ...Because here's something else that's true. In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. **The only choice we get is what to worship.** And an outstanding reason for choosing some sort of God or spiritual-type thing to worship — be it J.C. or Allah, be it Yahweh or the Wiccan mother-goddess or the Four Noble Truths or some infrangible set of ethical principles — is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. **If you worship money and things — if they are where you tap real meaning in life — then you will never have enough. Never feel you have enough. It's the truth.** Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly, and when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you. **On one level, we all know this stuff already — it's been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, bromides, epigrams, parables: the skeleton of every great story. The trick is keeping the truth up-front in daily consciousness.** Worship power — you will feel weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart — you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. And so on. ---**David Foster Wallace. This majority party love affair with death be it suicide, killing babies or now mutilating minorsseems to fit right in with the quote, and this worship of death is eating up Maine**

My pastor spoke about this Public Hearing last Sunday, he shared of God's love of life and of the family. He then reflected that passing LD 227 - how we parents now will create a child, love and nurture them, raise them and how with LD 227 the govt can just take over? Swoop

in and seize a child. Seize a child and view parents as criminals. Does the sponsor know what the bill seeks to do?

I find it interesting, as a participant in past legislative battles that on page 2 the bill cautions us that LD 227 should not be viewed as Conversion Therapy. When you have to put that in the legislation, it certainly makes me think this is meant to be Conversion Therapy. Speaking of definitions, looking up the words "Health Care" tells me that neither the abortion or gender components of this bill are Health Care. In this age of tearing down statues, it is not acceptable to us to allow you to couch words so you can feel better about callous acts.

I am rambling because this bill feels forced, a mess. LD 227 has many unanswered pieces. Problems that smarter people than I will likely explore in front of you today. It is seemingly, another bill that will be left to unelected staff to fill in the pieces under cover of back rooms. Maine people are tired of that approach and simply ask for integrity.

I have attached articles showing the world is quickly moving past this gender infatuation. European countries that progressives typically point to have already learned the lessons and are walking back gender mutilation for minors. They see it is unsafe, doesn't work and doesn't solve the stated problems the person is suffering from. You also can read articles, studies, some as recent as this week showing that the debate on Transgenders and suicide is an important one but many studies show that this is a mental health issue and that the surgeries do not solve the problem but may in fact compound it with loss of ability to have children, lifelong heavy medications use and both regret and anger at the adults who encouraged this.

Of course, CCL Maine is against abortion. What an irony we can be discussing even more ways to destroy a life while another committee in this building might be seeking to solve our loss of population issues. Life is precious, changing words and definitions does not couch the harm bills like LD 227 do.

Time is ticking towards 2 minutes, so much to share. Rapid Fire: Random thoughts... Sanctuary Cities clearly are a heavy weight on a city or state. Just look at what Portland, Maine has done to itself. Am I the only person who avoids it and sees to not spend money there? Lawsuits? This bill will draw them in. Birthrate, recent studies show a great drop in birthrates in the US and around the world. Some might applaud, others may wonder who is going to work, care for the old? Did you see the Pope, last week stated that Gender Ideology is the ugliest danger of our time. Why is this bill at HCIFS? I do not understand why this bill is at this committee. Planned Parenthood and Big Pharm will benefit highly from this bill. Members of this committee, endorsed by Planned Parenthood should consider abstaining. No religious exemptions for hospital hospitals, we have seen in other places that Church led Hospitals have a higher calling and will shut down before joining a lost culture.

Monday, March 11 is the 2024 Hands AT the Capital 9am to 1pm in the Hall of Flags.



OPPOSE LD 227

THE FACTS: MAINE SHOULD PROTECT CHILDREN AND RESPECT PARENTS' RIGHTS

What the bill does:

1. Provides a **legal right under the law for kids** to undergo gender transition services – with or without parental permission.
2. Strips parents of their rights by **making it illegal for anyone to “interfere”** with the provision of “gender affirming care.”
3. **Opens the door to traffickers, kidnappers and sexual predators**, giving them more rights than a parent if a child is taken in the name of “gender affirming care.”

Reasons to oppose LD 227:

This bill will harm kids and families. Giving kids puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and even transgender surgery violates the first duty of Medicine: do no harm. More detailed information about the science behind these treatments can be found [HERE](#).

This bill supersedes parents’ rights by not allowing them to “interfere” if their child seeks gender transition services. If a kid is not old enough to get a tattoo, go to a tanning salon or buy cough syrup over the counter, why would we permit them to make their own decisions regarding life altering hormones and drastic surgeries?

This policy is unconstitutional. States have a constitutional obligation to assist other states in law enforcement matters and parents have rights to guide and care for their children. This bill ignores that duty and is likely illegal as a result.

This bill would make Maine one of the most radical sanctuary state for gender surgeries not approved by parents. Maine will join the ranks of California, Oregon, Washington and Minnesota as one of the leading states in the country where adults other than parents can coach kids into gender transition surgeries. It will make Maine a so-called “sanctuary state” for kids (and the adults helping them) who are seeking gender transition services without the permission of the parents.

Opens the door to traffickers, kidnappers, and sexual predators. The appears to allow anyone to remove a child from the care of their parents in order to facilitate gender transition surgery, and no court in Maine can do anything about it. This could easily extend to inappropriate adult-child relationships where a non-parent adult is grooming or trafficking the child, and it will provide legal cover for the adult in those instances.

This bill would make Maine a sanctuary state for activist and criminal abortion and gender transition providers, by encouraging and supporting providers that break the law in other states.

Detailed Explanation:

LD 227 makes both “gender-affirming health care services” and “reproductive health care services” a “legal” right, and interference with this right “whether or not under the color of law” is against state policy.

1. Both gender-affirming health care service and reproductive health care services are very broadly defined.
2. For example, under LD 1735, “gender-affirming health care” was limited to “medically necessary health care” which at least implies that a doctor has concluded it is necessary. LD 227 abandons that limitation. Because it covers “all supplies, care, and services” including services of a “supportive nature” related to gender dysphoria or incongruence. You don’t have to prove medical necessity under this definition. Not only would it cover drugs, surgeries, and mental health services, it could even cover things like chest binders or prosthetics to create the appearance of male anatomy.
3. Likewise, under LD 227, reproductive health care services includes “all supplies, care, and services” including those of a “supportive nature” related to pregnancy, assisted reproductive, and abortion. So not only is anything touching abortion now covered, but all forms of IVF, surrogacy (including paid surrogacy) and anything else necessary to assist with reproduction could be covered by this bill.
4. All of this is now a “legal right” and no one, including private citizens, can interfere with this right.
5. As a result, the state could be required to fully pay for all of these services; a Catholic hospital could be required to provide these services; a religious organization could be required to cover them in their insurance and give employees time off to obtain them.
6. It could be used to undermine parental decision-making on these services. If a child in Maine has a “legal right” to these services and no one can “interfere” with them, then this bill could be misused to argue that that parents are prohibited from saying no to their child receiving them.

LD 227 would allow lawsuits in Maine courts against a person who files “hostile litigation” which is litigation in another state that would deter a person from obtaining gender identity/abortion services or from helping another person obtain those services.

1. For example, if parents in Georgia filed a lawsuit to stop an aunt from transporting a child to Maine for gender identity/abortion services, LD 227 would allow the aunt to sue the parents and seek punitive damages against the parents. This is an unprecedented new cause of action.
2. But it goes even further because it includes lawsuits that “deter” a person from engaging in gender identity/abortion services. So if a detransitioner sues a hospital system for performing a gender transition procedure on the minor, and that hospital system has locations in Maine, the lawsuit against the hospital system could “deter” its Maine locations from performing these procedures. As a result, someone in Maine could sue the detransitioner for engaging in “hostile litigation.”

LD 227 prohibits Maine courts from enforcing a judgement from another state related to gender identity/abortion services. So if Georgia issued a judgment against an aunt from trafficking a child to Maine to obtain an abortion or gender transition surgery, Maine courts would refuse to enforce that.

1. The bill would prohibit a state court from even requiring the aunt to give testimony in the trafficking case or from issuing any subpoena or warrant against the aunt.
2. And even if the aunt was found guilty of violating a criminal law in Georgia related to the gender identity/abortion services, Maine would be prohibited from surrender the aunt to the state where she was convicted of the crime. So now Maine becomes a state that harbors criminals who violated the criminal laws of other states that prohibited vulnerable individuals from gender identity/abortion services.

The bill would prohibit a hospital from taking “adverse action” against a doctor or nurse that participates in gender identity/abortion services. Because there is no religious exception, it would mean that a Catholic healthcare organization or pro-life pregnancy center could be punished for disciplining an employee who participates in one of these morally objectionable services.

Transgender Acceptance/No Acceptance Around the World

Countries with concerns about Trans “Health Care”

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2023-07-12/why-european-countries-are-rethinking-gender-affirming-care-for-minors>

As US Goes All In on Child Sex Changes, These Countries Are Having Second Thoughts

<https://dailycaller.com/2023/01/01/europe-walking-back-gender-transitions-minors/>

12 US States have banned gender surgeries for minors. Longitudinal data collected and analyzed by public health authorities in Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands and England have concluded that the risk-benefit ratio of youth gender transition ranges from unknown to unfavorable.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/joshuacohen/2023/06/06/increasing-number-of-european-nations-adopt-a-more-cautious-approach-to-gender-affirming-care-among-minors/?sh=4a762db37efb>

19 States have laws restricting gender surgery,

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/06/politics/states-banned-medical-transitioning-for-transgender-youth-dg/index.html>

The only Middle Eastern nation to allow Trans Surgeries? Iran.

<https://qz.com/889548/everyone-treated-me-like-a-saint-in-iran-theres-only-one-way-to-survive-as-a-transgender-person>

Tough Territory for Transgender People in the Middle East

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/08/tough-territory-transgender-people-middle-east-and-north-africa>

NY Post, Yesterday

<https://www.themainewire.com/2023/05/maine-ob-gyn-backing-janet-mills-abortion-plan-was-deposed-in-1-26m-wrongful-death-suit-after-late-term-abortion-patient-died/>

Suicide and Transgender Individuals

Brand new study states surgeries do not positively affect suicide issues in Trans, however, mental health issues in Trans does.

<https://segm.org/Suicide-Gender-Dysphoric-Adolescent-Young-Adult-Finland-2024>

Transgender and Mental Health

<https://ysph.yale.edu/news-article/transgender-individuals-at-greater-risk-of-mental-health-problems/>

The study found that transgender individuals who had received a diagnosis of gender incongruence were:

- six times more likely to have a mood or anxiety disorder than the general population.
- three times as likely to be prescribed antidepressants and anti-anxiety medications.
- more than six times as likely to attempt suicide resulting in hospitalization.

More than 40% of Transgender adults in the US have attempted suicide

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/transpop-suicide-press-release/>

- Nearly one-third of transgender individuals reported hazardous drinking (28%) and problematic drug use (31%).
- Among transgender adults, 44% reported recent suicidal ideation, 7% reported a recent suicide attempt, and 21% reported recent non-suicidal self-injury.
- The majority (82%) of transgender people have accessed formal mental health care, compared to 47% of cisgender adults. About one-quarter (26%) of transgender people sought support from other sources such as religious and spiritual leaders and alternative medicine practitioners, compared to 20% of cisgender adults.
- Transgender nonbinary people were four times more likely to engage in hazardous drinking compared to transgender women.

- Compared to transgender men, transgender nonbinary people were four times more likely to report problematic drug use, three times more likely to experience serious psychological distress, six times more likely to have recently thought about suicide, and four times more likely to have engaged in non-suicidal self-injury at some point in their lives.

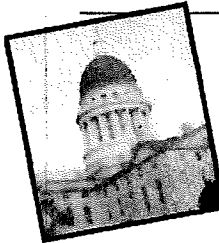
From: Maine Right to Life no-reply@thryv.com
Subject: Save the Date! Hands At the Capitol
Date: February 1, 2024 at 3:18 PM
To: Mike McClellan mmcclell@maine.rr.com



Save the Date!

Hello Mike,

MAINE RIGHT TO LIFE



Please Join Us!
Hands At The Capitol
In the Hall of Flags
Monday, March 11, 2024
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Event Purpose:

For nearly 50 years, we gathered AROUND the capitol to memorialize the January 22, 1973, Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. Under Roe v. Wade, the federal government ruled the land on abortion policy. The only thing that individual states could do was to work AROUND the supreme court decision. More than 64M innocent, voiceless, unborn babies were killed since the Roe v. Wade decision.

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court reversed the Roe V. Wade decision, via Dobbs v. Jackson, declaring that abortion was not constitutional. Thus, abortion policy was rightfully returned to the individual states to decide. Now, abortion laws are determined AT the State Capitol – under the dome of the People's House. This means the people of Maine have a voice.

Now, we are calling on the people of Maine to bring their voice to the Capitol on **Monday, March 11th, 2024**, to show your support for LIFE in Maine. The legislature needs to hear your voice!

Stay tuned for more details