

March 5, 2024

Emma Clark
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Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Legislative Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee,

My name is Emma Clark, I live in Belfast, Maine, I am here to testify strongly **against** LD 227.

This proposal removes parental rights in all 50 states.

With it parents can't sue or prosecute kidnappers or those who perform life altering procedures on minor children. If they do, parents can face fines instead and can be sued by the kidnapper themselves.

Parents won't be able stop their children from seeking or being pressured into procedures such as abortions, genital mutilation procedures, the surgical removal of healthy reproductive anatomy, or the administration of puberty blockers, and other powerful hormones.

The word abortion was removed from the amendment of this proposal 3 times and replaced with the umbrella term "legally protected health care activity" which is a euphemism for abortion up until the moment of birth for any reason at all, and covers gender dysphoria related mutilation and procedures.

(<https://mainefamilyplanning.org/patient-resources/faqs/>)

To directly quote Maine Family Planning's website: "In Maine, a minor can obtain confidential reproductive health care, including abortion care, without parental consent or notification".

The dangers of this bill means that parents in our country won't be informed if their child has complications from abortions or procedures, becomes suicidal, is in need of emergency care or are victims of human trafficking or coercion.

It would prevent parents from having the right to take legal action against those who seek and do harm to their minor children.

This bill doesn't take into account the rights and responsibilities of parents, the realities of human trafficking or the fact that children under the age of 18 can't vote, rent a car, or buy alcohol because their brains aren't developmentally mature enough to make life changing decisions, but in the state of Maine they are allowed to kill a baby through abortion or cut off their healthy anatomy which are decisions that have lasting effects for the rest of their lives.

This bill is irresponsible, unjust and unlawful.

This bill cannot pass in our state. No one has the right to kill a baby in the womb of it's own mother. No one has the right to maim a child against it's parents will. No one has the right to sue a parent for wanting to protect their child against permanent damage.

Thank you for your time and God bless you.