

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

As a parent of a 15-year-old daughter, a 17-year-old son and a 19-year-old son. I am here today to ask you to sincerely consider the long-term ramifications of passing bill LD 227. There are many and they are severe. You have the tremendous responsibility of impacting generations of Americans, this bill will affect ALL American families, not just Mainers.

Aristotle wrote that the family is "nature's established association for the supply of mankind's everyday wants."

Michael Novak said the nuclear family is "the first, best and original Department of Health, Education and Welfare."

William Bennett, a former US Secretary of education, a Washington fellow and a product of divorce and multiple stepfathers, staunchly supported the nuclear family in the New York Times, claiming stronger families make for stronger societies. William also went on to state it more emphatically, saying "for a civilization to succeed, the family must succeed, and right now, it's not."

The family is the linchpin of our society, and bills like LD 227 are intentionally pulling that linchpin out. This bill intentionally moves the authority and decision-making responsibility from parental units to the children. Young people that are not permitted to decide whether it is healthy to smoke, drink, play the lottery or get a tattoo. But they can single-handedly decide to make a life-long, life-altering decision without their parents' involvement. Their parents, who have raised them their entire life and know them better and love them more than anyone else.

I could go on for hours about the horrors of this bill and the long-term detrimental impact it would have on the fabric of our society. I invite each of you to my house for a discussion on the matter. However, to keep this under my 3 minutes, I will wrap up by stating that this bill is short-sighted without a care for the long-term impact it will have on the people you are sworn to represent. This bill claims to show LOVE to those hurting and needing love, and it really does the opposite. This bill does not do anybody in Maine the justice that the sponsoring legislators felt it would.

I urge you all to vote "ought not to pass" on this horrific, life-altering bill. Please consider the full weight of your decision, and don't send this bill to the full assembly.

Source

Bennett, W. (2012, April 24). *Are "family values" outdated?* The New York Times.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/04/24/are-family-values-outdated/stronger-families-stronger-societies>