

March 5, 2024

Dear Committee Members on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

My name is Kelly Danielson and I am from Buckfield. I urge you to vote **ought not to pass on LD 227**.

Frankly, I am angry that such an egregious bill is even being considered. This bill preys on people in the most vulnerable times of their lives. I speak up against this bill on behalf of the pre-born whose voice cannot be heard while he or she is waiting to arrive and make their mark on the world. I speak on behalf of children who are being pushed into making adult decisions they are not capable of making. This bill would allow children to decide on making permanent life-long alterations to themselves, at a time when they cannot fully comprehend all the future damaging consequences. Gender changing treatments and surgeries can render their bodies void of sexual pleasure and of the ability to reproduce their own children due to the harmful side-effects that we know medical professionals are already warning us about. I speak up in opposition to this bill for the many women that find themselves in unplanned pregnancies and are bullied into abortions by those who tell them they aren't equipped or smart enough to make it in life with a baby they didn't plan for.

Furthermore, it is common knowledge that children frequently change their minds about who they are and what they want to be when they grow up. My brother was a sensitive little boy who took a shine to dolls, and wanted one to play with along with the girls. He wasn't groomed into thinking that "he" then must be a "she". Instead, my mother had the insight to nurture his sensitive spirit by giving him a boy doll and said, "Son, some day you are going to grow up to be a man, and you will need to become a good daddy and help your wife raise your children." Eventually he grew out of playing with dolls. But guess what? He did indeed become a husband and a wonderful hands-on father to twins! I thank God we grew up in a time when showing signs of gender mismatch was not taken as a sign by the adults in our lives to change our genders.

Finally, if this bill becomes state policy, I resent the infringement that will be placed upon me as a taxpayer to pay for a law that will tear at the moral fabric of our families and our Maine way of life.

Please vote **"ought not to pass" on LD 227**.