

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Legislative Health Care, Insurance and Financial Service Committee

I am Holly Swartz and I live in Union, Maine and I am here to testify strongly against LD227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.

This bill reminds me of the Fugitive Act of 1850. I realize those who wrote this think that they are on the side of free-thought and "do whatever you want", which they think is freedom. But in actuality it is bondage and now they are enslaving children; taking them from their parents, who-for the most part- love them more than anyone or any government ever could. And I will add, our state-run child protective services and foster system are already stretched and in great need of help. Democratic Senator James Mason of Virginia drafted the Fugitive Slave Bill of 1850 to punish the free states into compliance with forcing enslavement. This is what you are considering doing.

This bill pits Maine against every other state in the union. This bill pits Maine against all parents who care about their minor children who are struggling with some of the biggest decisions of their lives. As a parent, I cannot imagine a stranger taking one of my kids out of state and speaking for them; I cannot imagine a stranger taking one of my kids out of state and taking them to a surgery where their lives will be altered forever without my permission or involvement; this doesn't even touch upon the mental and emotional trauma of these life altering procedures. This will cause a divide so much wider than there might already be. And our state will get that credit? Shameful.

In the Democrats Fugitive Act of 1850, law enforcement everywhere were required to arrest people suspected of trying to help the enslaved. Habeas corpus was declared irrelevant. Enslavers needed only to supply an affidavit to a Federal marshal to keep a slave. This law resulted in the kidnapping of free Black people; this law before us today will result in the kidnapping of free minors as well. Where else in our judicial system, do minors have the ability to make such life-altering, contractual agreements without parental consent? The State of Maine is declaring itself more important in a Childs life than his/her parents. It's overwhelmingly wicked.

Following the Democrats passage of this bill, many who had had little or no opinions on slavery, had a law which now demanded their direct assent to the practice of human bondage, and it galvanized people against slavery. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote of it in Uncle Toms Cabin. If this passes, we will create an underground railroad to help these minors escape this state.