

March 5, 2025

**Testimony of Heather Brown against LD 227 An act regarding health care in the state**

Senator Bailey and Representative Perry and the members of the committee on legislative health care, insurance, and financial services,

I am Heather Brown, I live in Bangor, Maine, and I am here to testify strongly against LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State,

Please accept my gratitude to be able to speak about my sincere and heartfelt sadness by this bill. My sadness comes when I think of all those who will be impacted by this bill. There are so many facets to this bill, bound together from gender transitioning to abortion to creating a State of refuge for criminals in a place I love to call my home, Maine.

Those young and old, those who are most vulnerable and weak, those who are seeking to find truth in the very professionals they call doctors. Without so much as a fail-safe many people will be herded into the option, they think is their sole option, of changing their identity to transform into a more whole and better person. While this ideal is important, it is folly to give unreservedly the right to this action. With this bill, the right will appear as an "obligation" to the person who is struggling with gender identity. Carried out to the next step, this individual will undergo strenuous elective surgery that will change their very essence and they will be left to try to figure out where they fit in it

all on their own. This bill seems like a one fit for all option for those seeking to destroy the life they were given. Instead of seeking help from people who care about them, they will be lined up, changed, and then discarded because their very essence will be different, altered and forever changed. The most vulnerable are those who do not understand their purpose in life. Those changing their identity are following the “apparent norm” without a guide. The doctors and health care professionals who are wonderful and life giving in so many ways would be forced to concede to the law, doing the most harm instead of the good they swore in their Hippocratic Oath. This oath is defined as follows: The **Hippocratic Oath** is an oath of ethics historically taken by physicians. It is one of the most widely known of Greek medical texts. In its original form, it requires a new physician to swear, by a number of healing gods, to uphold specific ethical standards. The oath is the earliest expression of medical ethics in the Western world, establishing several principles of medical ethics which remain of paramount significance today. These include the principles of medical confidentiality and non-maleficence. As the seminal articulation of certain principles that continue to guide and inform medical practice, the ancient text is of more than historic and symbolic value. It is enshrined in the legal statutes of various jurisdictions, such that violations of the oath may carry criminal or other liability beyond the oath's symbolic nature.

Please accept my testimony and my objection to the passage of this bill in our beautiful State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Heather Brown