

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Legislative Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Carol Bailey, I reside in Minot, ME. **I am here to testify against LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.**

I am a Christian, a mother, a grandmother, and a retired registered school nurse. I value the lives of children and their right to an unhindered childhood, free of fear, sexual interference and evil.

LD 227 would open the borders of Maine to people from every state in the union, (sounds like the opening of our southern border, that has not turned out well especially for children and women.) Abortion, trafficking children, mutilating the bodies of children, allowing illegal activity to go unchecked by police and our justice system, all these are abhorrent to God and not representative of my personal value or the values of many Maine citizens. These activities spell death, loss, separation of families, physical and emotional pain not life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Children do not have the following rights: to smoke, to drink, to drive, to attend certain age limiting movies, to work outside the home until age 14, to join the military, to legally change their name, to get married, get a tattoo, can't buy spray paint, or a lottery ticket or vote until the age of 18, YET this law would allow children to make permanent changes to their bodies without the guidance of their parents, against their parents knowledge and in a situation away from parents that would be highly stressful and confusing. Children are not wise enough to make such permanent life altering decisions. They are not capable of understanding the long-term effects of their decisions like the reality that they will never bear children. Their decisions could likely require years of mental health therapy to unravel their choices and come to grips with what happened and why. Who will pay for all this?

Maine citizens will bear the burden on these expenses against their will. When I pay my taxes, it has been my expectation that the taxes paid would go to benefit the citizens of Maine and not squandered on such horrific activities. That money would better be spent on our Maine veterans, the homeless and helping children understand their gender questions. **With all due respect LD 227 is purely evil and appeals to the lowest of human nature.** It does not protect children or women. This bill will divide families, create hostility and divisions, and will not benefit Maine or its citizens. Please vote against this legislation and work to bring peace, reconciliation, and sanity to the governing of Maine.