

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, Members of the Committee,
My name is Roberta Manter, I live in Fayette, and I am asking you to restore some measure of faith in my government by voting against this insane bill, L.D. 227.

Last I knew, a school nurse was not allowed to give even a Tylenol tablet to a student without the parents' knowledge or consent. Why? I assume, because of the possible medical ramifications, and the fact that the parent is most familiar with that child's health history, and most concerned and responsible for their child's health and welfare. How did we make a quantum leap from that to thinking it's okay for *anyone* other than the parents to take a child for irreversible, life-changing medical treatments or surgery, without the parents' knowledge and/or consent?

In Maine we do not allow a child to get a driver's license until they are 16, buy a firearm until they are 18, or buy cigarettes or buy or consume alcohol until they are 21. Why? Because they are not old enough and mature enough to make wise decisions about things that may affect the health and welfare of themselves or of others. Even the parents' consent will not override these limits. Why? Again, because a child under 18 is not mature enough to handle such matters safely. So why on earth would we think that it's okay for someone other than the parents to take a child for irreversible, life-changing medical treatments or surgery, without the parents' knowledge and consent?

To the women on the committee, think back to when you were a child. Would you have felt safe, knowing that a person could rape you without fear of consequences if they got you pregnant, because they could simply take you to another state and get your child aborted without your parents' knowledge or consent? You men on the committee who are fathers, you have a duty to protect your children. Would you want someone to be able to rape your daughter and then take her out of state to have an abortion without your knowledge or consent? What right do we in Maine have to say what people in other states can do to someone else's child? Where does due process enter in for the parties concerned?

The United States used to be on the forefront of fighting human trafficking. Now the United States is one of the worst offenders. This bill will further enable human trafficking, not only in Maine, but across the United States. We have lost our moral compass.

As for late term abortion, with modern medicine abortion is never medically necessary. Removal of a dead fetus to save the mother's life is not abortion, it's a tragedy and a miscarriage.

Please vote L.D. 227 ought not to pass.