

To the Committee on Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services. Thank you for your service to this state.

My name is Karie and I live in Washington.

I am testifying to you to implore you to vote no on LD 277. Rights in this country are not to be taken lightly. Abortion is not a Right in this country and neither is it a Right to obtain medical care to transition gender.

What is a right, is for parents to raise their children in the way they see best. Our children are a gift from God to us and not to the State. This bill will strip parental rights from people across the entire country. What right does the Maine legislature have to do that? Does the Maine legislature know better than a parent what is best for a child? What will happen to parents that won't affirm their child's new gender identity, this new "Right" you are creating? DHHS in this state is already in a horrible mess, do we want them to be empowered to remove children from loving homes?

The people of Maine don't want this, and you know it. Otherwise, you wouldn't have hidden it in a Concept bill only to be pulled out at the last minute. This was deceptive and undemocratic. If you really think Maine people are on board vote not to pass and bring it back next session and give it the full debate and visibility a bill of this magnitude deserves. And let the whole country weigh in because you are stripping them of their rights too.

This is a terrible bill with long-reaching consequences that we cannot begin to know. Please vote no on LD 277. Thank you