

Hello, My name is Ryan Clark from Winslow Maine. I am speaking in Opposition to LD 227.

All of us can easily get stuck in an echo chamber surrounded by people who agree with us and never challenge our beliefs. Even Social Media Algorithms feed us more & more of what we already believe. We are being pulled to the far Right and far Left. It is easy to dismiss people telling us things we don't want to hear. We call them Haters, we dismiss them.

Maine is not an extremist State. We are about 25% Republican, 25% Democrat and 50% Independent. We tend not to be impressed by extremists on the Left or the Right. This bill is a bill for Extremists. This has no business even being considered in the Great State of Maine. I am suspicious that this bill was pushed by outside special interest groups. This is not San Francisco or Seattle. Maybe this kind of extremist ideology is popular in downtown Portland or Boston but most of the people of Maine do not support this.

Should a child who is 10 or 12 or 14 be allowed to get married? It sounds Ludicrous, they are way too young & this is a life long commitment. They are not mature enough for something like marriage. Allowing 10 year olds to marry would be less damaging than this bill. To allow a child to have their Genitals mutilated in an irreversable way is not Gender affirming, it is Barbaric & Vile. This bill invites anyone in the country to come to Maine to be butchered in the name of Love and Compassion. Maine tax payers will even pay your legal bills to fight against a kidnapping charge brought by one of the child's parents if the child was brought to Maine for an Abortion or Genital Mutilation Surgery.

If someone who had Anorexia believed they were fat, with all their heart, would you just agree with them and Schedule them for weight loss surgery because some crackpot "doctor" said they needed surgery so they don't kill themselves? What is the difference with a child who is confused about their gender? How many lawsuits are the taxpayers of Maine supposed to pay for when these kids grow up and regret the choices they made as children?

I know many of you believe that Abortion is great & believe that Gender Dysphoria is something to be celebrated and we can't talk you out of those beliefs. This bill goes way too far and I hope you will all reject it before our Great State earns a reputation as a place for Extremists.