

My name is Susan Strickland, and I am a resident of Brunswick. I wish to voice my and my husband's vehement opposition to LD 227.

My husband and I moved to Maine almost 30 years ago with our three very small children. He was a Non-Commissioned Officer on staff for the US Army Northeast Recruiting Battalion in Topsham. After he retired, we chose to stay in Maine as opposed to going back to any of the other four states we had lived in. Historically, Maine has been a state that draws people in for the right reasons: incredible natural beauty, affordability, but most of all a traditional culture of family, pervasive safety, and kindness toward one's neighbors. This is why a Georgia Boy and a California Girl chose to make it our new home three decades ago.

However, if LD 227 passes, this will no longer be so. It would draw people in for all the wrong reasons.

The current government of our beautiful state seems bent on turning Maine into the opposite of what my family stayed here for. By passing LD 227, Maine would be on a cultural and moral kamikaze mission by seeking to create a "sanctuary state" for the most reprehensible acts of violence against children, namely their mutilation both inside and outside of the womb in the name of abortion and "transgender rights". In addition, by inviting and harboring those who would seek to kill children, literally and figuratively, this legislation would make kidnapping and child trafficking legal and sanctioned by you, the legislators.

The Bible calls those in governmental authority "servants of God". That means each of you in your duly elected position should not only uphold what is right and good for the society as a whole, but that you are answerable to God for the decisions you make on our behalf, your constituents.

As a taxpayer, teacher, mother, and grandmother, I implore you to act with honor, decency, and integrity in your role as legislators to courageously reject LD 227. Please keep Maine a sanctuary of peace and protection for the citizens of both our state and elsewhere. Vote no on LD 227 so that Maine will remain a place where children and families — like mine — flourish with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, not a state where children and families go to die.

Thank you.

G. Frank & Susan Strickland
39 MacMillan Dr.
Brunswick, Maine 04011
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