

My name is Shannon Van Dyke and I am a resident of Lewiston.

I am here to testify in opposition of LD 227.

I am a nurse, and I work in a primary care clinic in downtown Lewiston Maine with some of the most vulnerable populations in our state.

As a nurse, it is my duty to advocate for those that I serve to promote their safety and wellbeing. LD 227 threatens the safety of not only the children of Maine, but those of our nation.

This bill will allow minors to receive gender transformative medical treatment through surgery or hormone therapy. We cannot allow this unsafe practice to be condoned in Maine. This bill allows for life altering medical procedures to be performed on minors without their parents consent that may permanently affect their reproductive capability. This is not a decision that minors should be able to consider due to the permanence of these treatments.

I am on the frontlines, I have these conversations with my patients. I've done my research. I want what is best for the families and children of Maine.

I ask, on behalf of myself and those that I serve, that we promote the safety of the children of Maine and vote in opposition of LD 227.

I thank the council members for their service and their time.