

LD 227- An Act Regarding Health Care in the State. REJECT this ACT NOW!

Good afternoon, Members of Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, My name is Elizabeth Chang and I live in Union. I am testifying today in LOUD OPPOSITION of LD 227.

How does one articulate words, to express all there is to say in such a shortened time? I come before you with a broken heart and in utter shock after becoming aware of the proposed amendment - to be adopted to this bill today. It is an utter disgrace to schedule this hearing at the last minute and to have a proposed amendment a total of 21 pages in length being kept away from the eyes of Maine citizens. I, myself, as well as many others, had to turn my life upside down to be here today.

I go back to my childhood.. growing up in a small community in Maine, where, the space between homes was a nice distance apart and the air was usually peaceful. I think about playing in the yard with my sister and our kittens, and all of our memories at that rural home. I remember feeling safe. If this proposed law had existed when I was a child, my world would have been one filled with extreme fear. I'm grateful that my parents had the right to protect me from the danger in this world.

This bill opens the door for exploitation in Maine. If the argument I heard this afternoon about it being about protecting Maine providers, why isn't that stated throughout the bill? And why must it be 21 pages long? Imagine a world where a young girl is taken to receive an abortion with an unsafe adult posing to be a friend knowing your parents cannot do anything to find you because of this so called "address confidentiality program" - because after all, it's your 'right' to receive this "necessary medical care." Imagine a world where GOOD PARENTS no longer have the right to RESCUE THEIR OWN CHILD from exploitation. You will not have to imagine for long if you pass this bill. This will be the future of Maine for countless children. The door will be opened, welcoming predators and traffickers into the institution of the family.

LD 227 is a horrendous bill that would sever the family unit, not just in Maine, but across this nation. I am here to tell you, respectfully, to take your hands OFF our families. Kill this bill! The government should be protecting the family's rights, NOT abolishing them.

Take your hands off the family unit - vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 227

Elizabeth Chang

Union, Maine