

Zechariah Allen  
Bowdoin  
LD 227

A seventeen-year-old in Maine cannot vote, get a tattoo, buy a handgun, a pack of cigarettes, or a six-pack of beer. I assume the reasoning behind this is that there is a general agreement that people who have not reached the age of majority are not competent to make decisions for their long-term well-being and much less that of society. Yet LD 227 would not only allow children to make life-altering decisions without the consent of their parents, but it would also explicitly remove the parents from this critical and irreversible decision. The bill goes so far as to direct law enforcement not to assist legal guardians in recovering their children from other adults who have taken children from their homes against the wishes of the parents and even extend legal protections to people that in virtually any other capacity would be considered criminal kidnappers. Furthermore, when parents try to take legal action to recover their child, this bill treats their suit as hostile litigation. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled multiple times on the issue of parental rights and has consistently upheld parents as the best guarantor of children's welfare. I cannot see a future in which this bill does not appear before the Supreme Court, especially because of how it seeks to disrupt the parental rights of Americans in other states. Based on precedent and the composition of the court there is no way this bill survives. This bill is an unprecedented violation of parental rights that in the end will certainly fail under judicial scrutiny and will not only represent a disregard for the sanctity of the family but will cost the Maine taxpayers untold legal fees in a futile attempt to survive the court, and for what? So children can irreversibly castrate themselves? Doctors are wary of even letting adults castrate themselves, but we want to allow impressionable children to do it? Intentionally and explicitly removing the guidance and stability of their parents from that decision? To what possible end? Literature seems to be mounting that reassignment surgery does not obviously influence suicide rates and the concept of post-op regret is gaining exposure. It seems to me that this bill either is willfully biased when it comes to academic consensus or that it is intentional in its violations of parental rights and state sovereignty. As for what this bill seeks to do to children, I will simply direct you to Luke 17:2. For the sake of families, children, and the rights of your fellow Americans, do not allow this bill to pass.