

**Testimony of Emmeline Beal**  
**Against LD 227**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

I am writing in opposition to LD 227. This bill crushes parental rights and puts children and families at risk, both in Maine and across the nation.

A major theme of Proverbs—written by King Solomon, the wisest man—is that youth should listen to their parents’ counsel and take it to heart. For example, Proverbs 1:8-10 says, “My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains [necklaces] about thy neck. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.”

Likewise, Ephesians 6:1-4 exhorts children to obey and honor their parents. It gives fathers (and by extension, mothers) the responsibility of wisely and lovingly raising the next generation. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

In the long run, youth are better off if they follow their parents’ advice, trusting those who love them the most and have gained wisdom through more life experience. Circumventing parental authority—as this bill condones—leads to broken relationships, troubling regrets, emotional trauma, and predatory adults being free to manipulate and use confused minors.

Should youth who cannot yet drive or vote be allowed to make life-altering decisions without their parents’ knowledge or consent? Indeed, children desperately need the guidance, protection, and moral teaching that their fathers and mothers are there to provide.

Please do not stand in the way of parental rights and responsibilities. Please vote “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 227.