

LD 227

I am writing in strong opposition to LD 227.

As a voting citizen in the State of Maine I am greatly troubled by several issues in regards to this bill. The timing of the bill and limited communication to citizens from our elected officials leaving little time for public comment and review demonstrates a lack of consideration of constituents live's and responsibilities. The bill itself is one that would have such a profound effect on not only people in our state, but others warrants careful consideration and deliberation. It is truly reprehensible for our elected officials to not consider who they are representing and to make it a priority for the citizens to be engaged in the legislative process. This bill is wrong on so many issues: limiting parents ability to raise children, imposing laws on people from other states, and allowing people with bad intentions to come into our state with someone else's child that could lead to irreparable harm and potential abuse and trafficking.

Our Democratic controlled legislature is limiting Democrats, Republicans, and Independents from getting all the information concerning these bills and allowing them time to review and have meaningful discussions. We cannot have elected officials who don't listen to the constituents. I hope and expect to see an improvement in this area.

Maine should be passing legislation that strengthens parents ability to support and raise their children. No laws should be limiting a parent's right to get care for his or her children. No one knows a child better than a parent. Parents live with and provide for their children. They know what they're going through developmentally, emotionally, and physically. In no other legal area of life (purchases, contracts, loans) do we disregard a parent's part in decision making for a child. In fact legal contracts with minors are not enforceable as law determines they are not capable of making decisions with long term consequences.

LD 227 would limit other state laws that protect people from taking a child away from his or her parents. These laws need to be enforced to protect children from others who may seek to do them harm or impose their will on them. We have no business in limiting other state's abilities to protect their citizens.

There is language in this bill that would protect someone taking a child into our state for life changing treatment (many of these treatments are irreversible and many people have testified to their regret in having these treatments with and without all the information). This bill hinders children and parents getting all the information and making informed decisions. This bill would actually protect a person who is trafficking a child who could come to Maine and get an abortion and goes back to trafficking without parents even knowing.

In summary our legislature needs to not pass this piece of legislation for the reasons stated above. I strongly encourage you to listen to the will of your constituents and act accordingly.

Sincerely, Garth Berenyi