

Tessa Burpee
Brewer
LD 227

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Legislative Health Care, Insurance and Financial Services Committee,

My name is Tessa Burpee. I live in Brewer, Maine and I would like to testify against LD 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.

This bill is bad for Maine. We have legal age requirements that provide boundaries for minors in just about every area of life ... getting a license, buying cigarettes and alcohol, registering to vote, getting a tattoo, even renting a car. We should not allow minors to make permanent life altering decisions about their bodies at all or prevent their parents involvement. Harboring minors from other states and preventing their parents from intervening or advocating for them is harmful to everyone involved. Even worse, this bill opens up the potential for lawsuits against families in other states who are trying to protect their children.

It potentially makes our state a haven for child trafficking, protecting and supporting through hostile litigation people who would help minors who want to mutilate their bodies or receive abortions without parental involvement. The government should not be assisting minors in making these kinds of life altering decisions with far reaching and irreversible consequences. Many adults who have hormone therapy and surgeries to attempt to change their bodies in this way live to regret it and have severe, life long health complications. We should not be making it easier for children to follow in these footsteps by constraining them from their parents who love them and want what is best for them.

And our tax dollars should not be going toward any of this!

Please vote ought not to pass on LD 227.

Respectfully,

Tessa Burpee
Brewer, Maine