

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Joint-Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Affairs:

My name is Elizabeth Caruso. I live in Caratunk, and I am testifying in opposition to his bill.

LD 227 An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

According to legaldictionary.net, the definition for “public policy” is: “A course of governmental action established to address the problems of the society **at large**, rather than individual needs on a smaller scale.”

Public policy at its very nature should be beneficial, applicable, and certainly not hostile to the public at large. Instead, the intentional absence of transparency and purposeful trickery in process indicates the subversive and substance-lacking nature of this bill and reveals a fear of the public, not only in Maine but nationwide.

It’s inconceivable that sponsors and leaders would craftily circumvent a transparent legislative process, supersede and strip away the rights of all American parents and families, religious freedom, the freedom of conscience “to do no harm”, and fiscally-irresponsibly force taxpayer funding.

The elimination of “medically necessary health care” radically endangers our youngest, most impressionable citizens. The “hostile litigation” component strips our law enforcement, prevents accountability of providers, and forsakes the protection of patients. It’s all unprecedentedly inhumane – and most certainly not, health care.

The secrecy of quietly converting a 2-sentence concept draft into a 21-page amendment, the insufficient notice of a public hearing to be held on Election Day, purposely prevents the public from testifying, having to choose between 2 democratic processes. What a disgrace to the office you were elected to.

The purpose of our government is to protect the rights of the governed. To the contrary, this bill destroys rights as well as lives, not only in Maine, but across the nation. There are no needs being met here. The only ones being protected in this bill are those providers and organizations who will get rich if this passes.

As you know, abortion up to birth was made legal. Health care, and state funded health care, is well protected and quite encompassing in Maine. This bill meets no unmet need.

The foundation of our society is not government or business. The foundation of our society is a flourishing family. This legislation only destroys our future generation.

We can support our citizens in better ways. Our constitutional republic requires legislation that represents the will and best interests of the citizenry. The deception and lack of transparency to force legislation is dictatorship.

Lawmaker, your vote is deciding the face and future course of Maine. Please oppose LD227. It lines the pockets of a few and strips the rights of a nation.