

Regina Creeley
Hudson
LD 227

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO L.D. 227

by Regina Creeley M. Ed.

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Good afternoon Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

My name is Regina Creeley and I am testifying in opposition to L.D. 227. My residence is in Hudson and I'm a retired middle school special education teacher. In 2014, I was voted Special Education Professional of the year (by the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC)).

I like to think that this bill was crafted with the best of intentions but as all adults know the best of intentions often lead to unintentional pain. It seems obvious to me that this bill can be used as a tool by sexual predators. There are all kinds of sexual predators. When I was a teenager, I volunteered at a foster home. There was a delightful three year old girl there who got raped and almost died. I spent hours rocking her and soothing her when she woke from her nightmares. I thought of that sexual predator and how he had gained some sort of satisfaction as he almost killed the small child.

I have worked with children my whole life and run into a number of sexual predators and reported any that threatened my students when I could recognize them as such. There are so many kinds. I have met two that got sexually titillated when children cross dress. They thought about that and planned for it. I taught middle school for thirty years and I knew people who liked to listen to the children talk about their new found sexuality. Some predators are rather obvious and others are undetectable and have very clean background checks that help them get professional jobs working with children.

It seems obvious to me that some predators will gain the confidence of adolescents and ask them how they are feeling about their gender. They could ask if Suzy or Jimmy are still thinking about changing their gender. Are their parents still refusing to let them get gender changing treatments? Are they kind of angry at their parents? Well, the predator will let them know they can help by saying, "I can drive you to a place where you can get gender changing treatments and your mom and dad can't stop us. In Maine, they passed a law that says children can get treatments and parents can't stop them. So how about you get in my car and we'll drive to Maine. I'll get us a hotel room and I'll drive you around to your appointments."

Any sane person can see that there are so many things wrong with that scenario.

The vast majority of parents protect their children and want what is best for them. Children go through so many phases. These phases can change in a flash and other times last for years. The parents live through these phases with their children. Governmental laws should not split children from their parents. This bill would add more children to the overloaded child service caseloads. There is no pressing need for this bill. There is danger that it will cause much harm and be used as a tool by slick sexual predators. Vote ought not to pass.