

Austin Marie Dow  
Standish ME  
LD 227

Dear members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

My name is Austin Marie, and I am a young woman (26) originally from Falmouth, ME, and currently residing in Standish with my husband. I am an avid outdoors woman.

I have been active in engaging with the local Maine and National congress in the past, and know many of the different Senators and Representatives in the Maine congress, including Representative Heidi Sampson, previous Representative Patrick Corey, Representative Stephen Moriarty, (who greatly helped me during the pandemic!) Senator Jim Libby, and previous Representative Ellie Espling, who is also a personal acquaintance of mine.

I am submitting this testimony against LD 227.

As your constituent, I ask that you do not support this Bill, for the following reasons:

LD 227 will establish Maine as a sanctuary state for ALL abortion and transgender medical care... it endorses state-sanctioned kidnapping of minor children against their parents' will, and is a direct attack on parental rights, as well as validating trafficking. LD 227 makes both "gender-affirming health care services" and "reproductive health care services" a "legal" right, and interference with this right "whether or not under the color of law" is against state policy.

LD 227 would allow lawsuits in Maine courts against a person who files "hostile litigation," which is litigation in another state that would deter a person from obtaining gender identity/abortion services or from helping another person obtain those services.

LD 227 prohibits Maine courts from enforcing a judgment from another state related to gender identity/abortion services. So, if Georgia issued a judgment against an aunt for trafficking a child to Maine to obtain an abortion or gender transition surgery, Maine courts would refuse to enforce that.

The bill would prohibit a hospital from taking "adverse action" against a doctor or nurse who participates in gender identity/abortion services. Because there is no religious exception, it would mean that a Catholic healthcare organization or pro-life pregnancy center could be punished for disciplining an employee who participates in one of these morally objectionable services.

Malpractice insurers cannot increase rates or impose penalties on a doctor for providing gender identity/abortion services. This is interfering with the ability of insurers to appropriately factor in the risk of malpractice claims related to these procedures.

This bill is extremely dangerous to our families in Maine- please do not support this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Austin Marie Dow