

March 4, 2024

**Testimony in Opposition to LD 227**  
**An Act Regarding Health Care in the State**

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

My name is Nathan Gould, and I am a resident of Winterport. I am submitting testimony in firm and unequivocal opposition to LD 227, evasively titled “An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.”

During the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary’s work session, held on January 25, 2024, the Committee unanimously voted Ought Not to Pass on the repulsive LD 1735, a similar bill to this one. After pontificating about “bans”, Representative Moonen, the Committee’s House Chair, talked of having a “process of drafting, carefully reviewing, and updating bills here in Maine so that we can make sure our laws are the best possible for the People of Maine.” The Representative then moved “Ought Not to Pass” as LD 1735 did not further various goals concerning health care.

I would submit that LD 227 also does not further goals concerning health care. Killing babies and mutilating children is not health care. I would add that what it does further is petty partisanship to the detriment of the legislative process. It furthers the malevolent agenda of confused and vicious ideologues determined to permit the brutalizing of children. It furthers the profits of the abortion and gender “reassignment” industries.

There will be plenty of testimony given online and in-person by individuals intending to explain the obvious truth that we shouldn’t harm children. You’ve heard it, and it shouldn’t require extensive explaining, though I question many legislators’ willingness to listen. So I will take a different tack: this bill highlights the blatant disregard for the legislative process and disrespect for the public held by those involved with crafting and scheming such legislation into Committee rooms.

Concept drafts are a blight on the process. You cannot expect anyone paying attention to believe the politicians leaving a bill as a concept draft for a year and then swooping in with such controversial language right before the hearing care about transparency. The bill’s title does not

accurately reflect the content and scope of the bill. It is entirely underhanded to give such short notice and schedule the public hearing on a day that just so happens to be the Presidential Primary. I do not think it is unfair to assert that the intention was to shut out the public from commenting on this malodorous legislation. The excuse of being short on time to cover the myriad of bills is just that: an excuse. The excessive amount of bills has been rightly noted by many, and such a workload facilitates the fog and uncertainty necessary for sneaking through bills that deserve more scrutiny than they receive. Perhaps, if you are unable to give the public adequate notice, there are more bills than necessary.

I would like the distinguished Members of the Committee to keep the oblique and circuitous path this bill took in mind when its proponents claim widespread support, and consider why a bill that supposedly enjoys public consensus requires such political cloak-and-dagger to get into a public hearing.

The 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature has been rife with these parliamentarian games, from the early adjournment followed by a spurious emergency session designed to ram through a partisan budget now almost a year ago, to prolonging and stalling votes on LD 1619 to late hours until the numbers were favorable to a particular outcome, to accepting minority reports and tabling otherwise meritorious bills because a member of the wrong Party submitted them.

It is sad, because I believe there was once a time when, regardless of political affiliation, lawmakers would work together for the good of the People of Maine. Only the naive would believe such an idealized State House still exists; it has been replaced with a cutthroat machine that treads upon the People of Maine in pursuit of serving the desires and whims of lobbyists, ideologues, dark money, and partisan goals. This is all too evident in a bill such as LD 227, allowing children to be taken from their home state to be mutilated in Maine, removing any limitation on abortion and permitting infanticide. Where it is vague it is dangerously permissive, and where it is specific the bill is horrifying.

How incredibly far gone has our State become for there to be a need for the public to testify before legislators concerning why hurting, confused children should be protected from choosing to harm themselves with irreversible surgeries! How backwards and barbaric our culture has become for there to be any question about the horror of slaughtering babies up to birth—now removing the justification of “medically necessary,” revealing the true goal of feeding the abortion profiteers! Such a bloody desire for filthy lucre enables a slaughter that would put the ancient adherents of Molech in awe of their modern counterparts.

I know there must be some legislators, even some in support of this bill, who entered politics intending to make things better for their constituents. I want to believe that some of those who support this bill simply do so out of ignorance, or that they are victims of deception. Or maybe it is because of Party allegiance. Can they really justify abortion—in a state that now allows it up to birth—

for any reason with no limits? Last years warnings by those advocating for the cause of life are now not nearly as hyperbolic as they may have seemed to some. I cannot imagine that, after really evaluating this bill, any well-meaning and intellectually honest legislator would consider it a just law. The claim is that it protects rights, when the reality is that it infringes upon the right to life of preborn babies, the dignity of children, and the right of parents to make decisions for their children. I hope any legislator that truly means well will do the right thing and vote against this bill.

Children are made in the image of God, and Almighty God will protect His children. I hope it is by this bill being unanimously defeated in Committee. The People Of Maine must wake up and realize how far from the light of God's Word we have gone, and the clear consequences of such deviation as our culture rapidly devolves (Romans 1). We must not allow ourselves to continue being a culture that sacrifices our most vulnerable for the sake of convenience. God forbid!

A duplicitous process that wastes so much time to produce an objectionable bill that should never have seen the light of day deserves testimony that is not concise, since the time, resources, and very lives of the People of Maine seem to matter so little to elected officials. I'd very much appreciate it if the Legislature focused more effort on protecting the rights of the people instead of pandering to ideologues. I do not understand this persistent push to harm children—it can only come from a dark place.

This bill is as far from “the best possible” that a bill could be. Reaffirm your loyalty to the Constitution and the People of Maine over special interests. I ask the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Nathan C Gould

Winterport