

Elias Leach  
Steuben  
LD 227

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I'm [insert name here], I live in [insert town/city here], and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 227.

We have seen the overreach of state governments and even large governments for the past couple of years and how it very negatively impacts our fellow Americans. I do not think we should follow in those footsteps. We pride ourselves on being Mainers, we are warm and welcoming, loving and caring people, we care about our state, our livelihoods and especially, our people. We have seen countless times how we have helped each other, given care when needed without question and been simply good samaritans to our neighbors. And there should be no negative influence from outside opinions. We pride ourselves in being an open minded and loving state, and denying this bill would strip away that pride. This bill would allow extreme negative impacts to Mainers, stripping them of their rights to freedom, happiness and safety.

Reproductive and gender affirming care is a right. Without this care, over half of us wouldn't be here, our mothers that birthed us would have had no help, and we should not be closing the doors for others behind us. Our fellow trans or uterus having friends, family, siblings, parents, etc would not be here without this care, as it is quite literally life saving. That is a fact, and care should never be up for discussion.

I was told to speak from my scars and I can. I had a hysterectomy, not only for reproductive safety, but for my gender affirming care. It quite literally saved my life. And it saved my mother's, my grandmother's, my aunts and other family members lives, because without this care, they would have had terminal illnesses and lost their lives. Care saves lives. It's been proven time and time again. That's the true meaning of health care, to save lives and prevent hurt. And it should not be tampered or influenced by others with negative intentions.

With this increase of attacks to reproductive and gender affirming care, let us continue to be open minded, and loving people. Everyone deserves care, everyone deserves to live safely. We must keep Maine safe for all people and Maine lawmakers must act to protect health care providers and access to care that is legal in Maine.

Again, reproductive and gender affirming care from doctors needs to be protected, as it affects us all.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 227. Thank you.

Elias Leach  
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