

Testimony for LD227

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Legislative Health Care, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

I am Susan Leigh, I live in Oakland, Maine and I wish to testify strongly against LD 227: An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.

This proposed legislation is not in the best interests of the individual, but is certainly in the best interests of those who stand to financially profit from the procedures, results, and by-products of such acts.

Ask yourself, who do you truly wish to protect? It does not appear to be children of any age. It would certainly be a boon to traffickers and unscrupulous 'medical providers.'

This legislation poses a threat to parental rights not only in Maine, but also in other states.

Bringing minors across our state line, for these procedures is trafficking in humans. Young humans who are not prepared for the ramifications of these actions. These choices preclude further choices that might be wished later in life.

The permanent ramifications will be with the individuals for the rest of their lives. There is no evidence these choices will result in a happiness pursued.

The term 'gender affirming' is a misnomer. If we were truly talking about affirming a person's gender – then we would value the person as-is and not promote some false notion that they would be better off switching sexes.

The very notion that a person is not good enough, as is, diminishes that person's realization of self worth. Government should not be in the business of diminishing a person's self esteem.

I have had two friends who decided, as adults, to surgically alter their genders from male to female. In both of these instances, these choices in major part stemmed from abuses they suffered as children.

They were felt to feel inadequate as men, and thought that they would find happiness as women. It was not to be.

One regretted the change later, wished to have a family and was unable to do so. She has struggled with depression and her self esteem has remained low as she feels more inadequate now than she did as a male.

The other realized the escape mechanism of changing genders did nothing to alleviate her personal pain. She regretted the choice, and she killed herself.

As to the issue of abortion, I know of many women who were forced as minors to abort a child. They live with regret and guilt as a result. This legislation would allow for such forced abortions.

It will also play into the hands of human trafficker who would be very pleased to bring their slaves across our state lines to assist with their horrific business plan. This legislation would put at-risk young girls at greater risk.

It is my opinion that neither abortion nor gender reassignment procedures are truly health care - quite the opposite. Neither are these situations in the realm of government to promote nor deny.

The role of government is not the role of parent.

The role of government is not the role of psychologist.

The role of government is not the role of human trafficker.

I implore you to please vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 227.

Susan Leigh, Oakland Maine