

Honorable Committee Members, I, Amy Loring, a Windham resident, am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 227.

This bill is VERY detrimental and damaging to the institution of the family because it not only brings into question a parent's rights over their own legally born or adopted child by allowing the potential for most any adult to make decisions for their child, but also invites more child abuse to take place in our state! These "gender-affirming care" decisions are significant ones impacting a child's wellbeing for the rest of their lives, which children are often not adequately or developmentally prepared for and may later regret. Parents are the first educators of their children, and as such have a right to make decisions on behalf of their child while they are under 18 and in their care.

This bill seeks to undermine the God-given authority of parents and strip it away.

Additionally, any bill that broadens or supports Abortion never takes into account the rights of the unborn child. These children are innocent, and they certainly did not invite themselves into existence! Yet, these babies are the ones experiencing the effects of choices that seek to destroy them as human beings even before they have a chance at life. As they have no voice, it is our responsibility to speak up for them.

This bill is extremely awful for the future of Maine and the other states in our country. Please vote NO on LD 227.