

Tim Russell
Sidney
LD 227

Statement of Tim Russell, resident of Sidney, Maine, in Opposition to L.D. 227, An Act Regarding Health Care in the State, March 5, 2024.

Senator Sanborn and Representative Tepler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Affairs; I write you to convey my strong opposition to LD-227.

This proposed bill is heavy-handed in scope and breadth with regard to all those who are "not" aligned with its stated objectives. Which I would add is the majority of Maine citizens.

It makes abortion and transgender medical care a "right" and totally negates any one else's "right" to object to these tenants. Which are enumerated in both the U.S. and Maine Constitutions.

Establishes Maine as a Sanctuary State for All abortion and transgender medical care at what cost and upon whom will this cost fall?

Endorses state-sanctioned kidnapping and promotes human trafficking of minor children and young adults.

Not only does it attack and trample parental rights in Maine, by extension, it does so in all 50 states.

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Both gender-affirming health care services and reproductive health care services are so broadly defined, the proposed bill not only covers medically necessary health care, but also all other supportive supplies, care and services that would normally be deemed not medically necessary.

So, now, not only will anything touching abortion now be covered, but all forms of IVF, surrogacy (including paid surrogacy), and anything else necessary to assist with reproduction could be covered by this bill, at what cost, to whom?

As a result, the state could be required to fully pay for all of these services; a religious affiliated hospital could be required to provide these services at exorbitant cost to taxpayers.

Religious organization could be required to cover them in their insurance and give employees time off to obtain them, completely contravening their first amendment rights under the U.S. and Maine Constitutions.

LD 227 language prohibiting Maine courts from enforcing any judgment from other states with regard to addressing potentially legitimate legal issues in Maine courts concerning abortion, gender-affirming health care, and potential child kidnapping/trafficking issues from the other 49 states is extremely arrogant and I'm sure would not be tolerated by Maine were the rolls reversed.

I could write more, but you get the idea.

I ask each of you when you vote on this proposed bill to think about this: Is this proposed legislation morally and ethically sound and in the best interest of the majority of Maine citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention.