

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick
LD 227

My name is Richard Shapiro, and I live in Brunswick. I am testifying against LD227. Please oppose this bill. While I sympathize with the aims of this bill, it simply goes much too far.

The problem with this bill is that the instant that anybody, in or outside of the State of Maine, utters the magic spell “Gender Affirming Care”, the state is rendered powerless to examine, intervene or indeed to regulate in any meaningful way other than to take children away from their parents for the express purpose of obtaining such “Gender Affirming Care”.

The entire issue of such irreversible, life altering, treatments for minors is very new. Studies are only beginning to come in tracking the long term physical and psychological outcomes of those receiving this care as minors. And, from what I’ve seen, those studies that have been completed have seen a preponderance of outcomes that were the same or worse for such children than for sexually dysphoric children who did not receive such care.

Furthermore, we are seeing cases of children being rushed through such procedures without even the bare minimum of psychological testing, discussion and preparation.

Given the above, this blanket lockout of state authority would be a shockingly extreme step to take, especially at this very premature date. The state cannot be allowed to be handcuffed in this manner. While many of the individual situations to arise under this bill may have merit, many will not. The state needs the ability to deal with such situations with flexibility and compassion for all parties. This bill would prevent that.

Furthermore, the specific allowance removal of a child from their parents just as soon as the magic words are spoken, coupled with the above handcuffing of the state to otherwise regulate, enforce, or investigate, is simply a recipe for abuse, and for ruined lives.

Thank you.