

Good afternoon, Representatives and Citizens of Maine

I am writing to you in opposition to the bill LD 227 – An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

This bill sets a dangerous precedent between parental rights and notification of a MAJOR surgery for a minor. How do you justify that a parent has legal responsibility for their minor child until said child reaches the age of 18 for everything that child does legally as well as illegally? How is it possible that laws can make an exception for this surgical procedure to be done to a child without our consent or knowledge? Who pays for the procedure? Who pays for the after care? Who do you think is going to be responsible to bring the child back to their physician for any complications?

Mental Health: you passed a law that social workers in Maine cannot counsel minors regarding conversion therapy. (Title 32, SS 7006) This bill seems to contradict that law. Or is LD 227 going to change the law making it legal for social workers/therapists to counsel the minor only in the “affirmation” of conversion? What if said child is questioning yea or nay? Said therapist can only provide affirmation? Is this truly what you want? And the parent doesn’t have any knowledge of this therapy?

I urge you to not put forth this bill LD 227 for vote. It is an abomination and makes the state of Maine look hostile to our families of this United States of America.

Barbara Smith, Cape Elizabeth