



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good afternoon Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the HCIF committee. My name is Katrina Smith and I represent District 62.

I am here today to testify OUGHT NOT TO PASS ON LD 227. Some of you are not going to like the truth that I tell you in my testimony over the next three minutes. Some of you are going to look down at your phone and shield your eyes and mind from what I have to say. I challenge you to listen to the facts that I present with an open heart.

Gender transitioning is a social contagion that through legislation as we have before us today, is unilaterally being put into law based on false and biased evidence that ignores the thousands upon thousands of children and young adults who make the ill-informed choice to cut off breasts and penises to receive the approval of parents, peers, and groomers.

In 2017 there were 15,172 new diagnoses of gender dysphoria, in 2021 there were 42,167 diagnoses. That is a rise of 26,995 more people who say they have gender dysphoria in only a 4 year period. These numbers are undeniable proof of a social contagion, a desire to fit in and be part of a movement that seems to welcome and encourage people to find their "true selves" no matter the consequences.

LD 227 states there is only a legal right to *encourage* gender dysphoria and not to question it or slow it down. A child can come to Maine and even if a parent objects they will be allowed every gender service you can name. Prove to me that this bill doesn't apply to 12 year olds or even 4 year olds. You can't.

It is documented that people attempting to change their sex are 4 times more likely to have serious mental health comorbidities which are hidden when only gender confusion is addressed and that is exactly what this bill will do.

"Gender-affirming care" is a sugar-coated term for deceiving a person/child about the unchangeability of biological sex, prescribing sterilizing drugs or performing surgical castration, and consequently inducing a lifetime of health complications. Puberty blockers, for instance, have been documented to interfere with the gain of bone mass, cause brain swelling and vision loss. Use of cross-sex hormones

destroys reproductive function and significantly increases the likelihood of life-threatening events such as a heart attack, blood clot, stroke, and cancers.

Genital surgeries carry not only typical surgical risks, but also have unusually high complication rates, cause lifelong sexual dysfunction, and result in permanent dependence on exogenous hormones. We cannot pretend that cutting off a healthy penis, inverting it to create a 1 inch fake vagina while stretching it out daily and having chronic deadly infections is physically or mentally healthy for anyone!!

One only needs to listen, actually listen, to the pain and suffering expressed by those who have had surgery or hormone replacement therapy and live with devastating mental and physical consequences. Haven't you seen them speaking out? Haven't you heard the stories of regret and pain flooding the airways? Chloe, Prisha, Luka, Rachel, Milo, Layla etc etc.

This bill is a nefarious attempt by the medical community to shield themselves from lawsuits that WILL come from the reality of cutting off healthy penises, destroying fertility, and condemning people to a life of constant pain and suffering all brought gleefully to them by those who seek to keep their nonprofits and gender clinics flowing with money for their propaganda. 60 million dollars of taxpayer funds was used for gender services this past year. 30 million of it for children!!

Stop this insane bill.

As Luka, a detransitioned woman recently stated, only saying yes and only affirming is not an act of love, that's not what love is. Love is putting up those boundaries and saying no and keeping someone safe even when they might be upset at you for it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

District 62 China, Hibberts Gore Township, Palermo, Somerville, and Windsor

Katrina Smith

Katrina J. Smith
State Representative