

TESTIMONY CONCERNING LD 227

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Studer. I am a citizen of Maine and am represented by Maine Representative Amy Kuhn and Maine Senator Teresa Pierce, both of whom I have contacted about my opposition to this bill. I work hard and pay taxes in the State of Maine, and am outraged not only that a bill such as this could actually have been non-transparently fast-tracked to avoid Maine citizens' awareness and understanding of this bill, but that such a bill – which serves no purpose for Maine citizens and results in what could be extraordinary costs to administer and pay for this bill if it became law – could actually have been put forward as a serious endeavor. What is going on? As a citizen I demand answers and accountability for this outrageous state of affairs.

I am opposed to this bill for four primary reasons:

- **State of Maine Replaces Medical Professional Judgment regarding Appropriate Healthcare.** LD 227 purports to put Maine legislators in the puzzling position of defining appropriate healthcare. Imagine Maine legislators stating that fentanyl or thalidomide (a morning sickness drug that caused deformities in infants) is appropriate healthcare – when in retrospect these drugs proved devastating to large numbers of people. Even more puzzling is that if medical professional societies, peer reviewed journals, clinical evidence or a healthcare provider's professional judgment indicated that a particular treatment was not appropriate healthcare – Maine would have enshrined it into a legal right not only in Maine, but for any person from any state, including minors, legally or illegally transported into Maine for the purpose of being treated with that procedure by any practitioner, including practitioners that have had their license revoked in other states, and even more outrageous - that our executive and judicial branches have no power to enforce a legal action against a such person or questionable practitioner.
- **Eviscerates Parental Rights.** LD 227 purports to put Maine legislators in the alarming position of enabling the trafficking of children to Maine for what Maine legislators have defined as appropriate healthcare – even without parent's knowledge or against their will – without any legal consequence. Honestly, would you desire this for your own children? How can we purport to change the rights of citizens who have elected to live in another state as to how to conduct the most sensitive and personal affairs, i.e., that of their own children?
- **Taxpayer support of Experimental and Controversial Procedures for Other State's Citizens.** LD 227 enshrines certain experimental and controversial procedures as legal rights – in effect forcing Maine taxpayers to pay for these experimental and controversial procedures, even for citizens of other states, and could pressure health care providers or those who assist healthcare providers to support these procedures, even when it violates their judgment, conscience or practice of religion. Maine taxpayers will not only be forced to pay for the expensive bureaucracy required to administer and enforce this bill if it becomes law, but they will also likely be paying the costs for these experimental and controversial procedures when the recipients of these procedures cannot pay. Lastly and horrifically, Maine will become a magnet for

questionable providers with unknown licensing issues in their home jurisdiction, who can offer these questionable procedures in Maine with no legal consequence.

- **Subverts Legal Rights and Remedies.** LD 227 subverts our system of law by taking away the rights of citizens to take legal action for illegal acts, such as trafficking minors and performing experimental procedures on minors, solely due to the State of Maine's determination that certain procedures are "appropriate healthcare" and "legal rights."

I find myself asking what is the purpose of LD 227? How do the citizens of Maine benefit from a law like this? What are the costs to Maine taxpayers of administering, enforcing and paying for this law and its foreseeable consequences? I honestly do not see any positive purpose for citizens of Maine. Why would we think the State of Maine knows better than healthcare professionals and parents what constitutes "appropriate healthcare"? Why should the legislators in the State of Maine subvert laws of other states? Why would we want the State of Maine in charge of determining what is best for children rather than the children's parents or legal guardians or even that child's doctor? Why should Maine's citizens be required to have their hard-earned dollars pay for this folly? Why is this bill being fast-tracked through the legislature in a non-transparent manner? What is going on?