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LD 227

I respectfully submit my strong opposition to LD227, “An Act Regarding Health Care in the State”. It is a bill that is dangerous to young people and their families. This is not my opinion. The American College of Pediatricians advocates for science-based, compassionate care for youth dealing with gender incongruence, not surgery that causes irreparable harm.

This professional organization urges parents and health care professionals to promote prevention and treatment plans in youth. Their review of literature indicates that children with these issues have experienced “significant psychological trauma leading to gender dysphoria.” In addition, “there is no long-term evidence that current “gender affirming” medication and surgical protocols benefit their well-being”. Instead of radical interventions against the will of parents, the group recommends another, more compassionate treatment. What treatment is that? “Intensive psychotherapy for the individual and family to determine and hopefully treat the underlying etiology of their gender incongruence.”

Proponents of LD227 must realize the dangers of their proposal. Otherwise, they would not have layered the proposal with legal protection against malpractice suits. This bill is a legal and moral quagmire that should be voted “ought not to pass”. Mainers should not have to pay for elective surgeries requested by out-of-staters. We cannot afford this disastrous bill.

I strongly urge you to vote against LD 227.