

March 5, 2025

Oppose: LD 227: An Act Regarding Health Care in the State.

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Committee. My name is Karen Vachon. I am a resident of Scarborough, and I oppose this bill.

Not only do I oppose this bill and its aloof title, I oppose the tactic to sneak this one by Maine people. This bill, if passed, will create a sanctuary state for all abortion care and transgender procedures of minor children. This is dangerous. Passage of this bill kills, causes irreversible harm, and further delays real healthcare to Mainer's who need regular, routine, and traditional healthcare.

By trade, I am a licensed health insurance agent. In the past year Maine people have experienced a double digit increase in their health insurance premiums in the state of Maine. Why? In part, because last year Maine passed legislation that will cover Abortion 100% - no deductible, no co-pay, no co-insurance. In short – better coverage for abortion, than for dread diseases such as Cancer, and the like. When I tell my clients this – they are outraged!

Day in and day out, I have people in my office, frustrated because they cannot get preventive care appointments for regular screenings; they find surgical procedures delayed, and struggle to find primary care doctors. Clients in York county that tell me they have called every primary care doctor in the county, and nobody is accepting new patients.

Let's be clear –Maine residents seeking real healthcare should be our top priority. Abortion is not healthcare. And “Gender Affirming Care” is destructive, a life changing procedure that is irreversible. Passage of this bill will increase demands on our healthcare system by out-of-state people. Maine people should be top priority.

Maine should pay attention to what is happening in Europe. [Sweden](#), once a strong proponent of gender affirming care, has put the brakes on. [Denmark](#), too, has reversed course amid medical and ethical uncertainties, by offering youth supportive counseling instead of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries. [Five Western European](#) countries once led the charge treating youth with gender dysphoria, now are reversing course advising the politics of the issue be put aside, and, instead, turn to the science which shows that treatment is unproven and benefits are unclear.

As Mainer's face delays in accessing every day, real healthcare; while also facing soaring health insurance costs, I humbly ask this committee to prioritize the healthcare needs of Mainer's first. The “hypocritic oath” for doctors: to do no harm, starts with caring for your patient's needs by providing care that doesn't kill human life, or cause irreversible damage to our most vulnerable, young, youth. As European leaders reverse course and put the brakes on gender affirming care, Maine should too. Please vote NO.

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