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LD 227

I respectfully submit that LS 227 is so constitutionally flawed that it will (if passed) prove to be a huge embarrassment to the State of Maine and its legislature. As one of many flaws, the bill expressly forbids Maine courts from enforcing valid judgments by other state courts, by its sweeping declarations. The US Supreme Court has long recognized parents' rights to raise and educate their children. (See *Pierce v Society of Sisters*, 268 US 510 (1925)). This bill brazenly proposes to strip parents across the country of their fundamental right to raise their children in accordance with their religious and personal beliefs and values.

It's astonishing that this legislature intends to make such sweeping public policy changes in the cover of darkness without the opportunity for Maine citizens to provide input to their representatives.

Shockingly, the bill's apparent waiver of essential medical credentials of practitioners would clearly place patients at risk and would likely result in injury and death. Medical licensing provisions are in place to protect patients. It seems that the legislature is so focused on forcing upon the state a "sanctuary" status, that all common sense has vanished from the State House.