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LD 227

A Testimony of Julie A Whitehill
Against LD227

An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

Representative PERRY of Calais and Senator BAILEY of York and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Affairs, my name is Julie A Whitehill, and I live in Norway, Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

I oppose LD 227 because transgender care policies and procedures have not been based on documented scientific and medical research leading to appropriate treatment for individuals struggling with gender issues.

Finland has recently submitted a research study of over 2000 subjects and a control group of over 16,000 control subjects. Their findings suggest appropriate identification and treatment of mental disorders is considered best practice. Not medication or surgical treatment.

There is no indication that puberty blockers, hormone replacement or surgeries, let alone removal of children or adolescents from their homes is either indicated or appropriate. England as well has backed away from these treatments as there is not sufficient evidence that these treatments are at all effective.

In fact, there is evidence that these treatments do not prevent suicide, nor do they provide the emotional relief that is sought. There is a growing body of evidence that there has not been skilled, appropriate mental health support prior to medical and surgical intervention. The medical and surgical interventions that have been given in this country will likely cause these individuals continued extensive medical care.

On the abortion issue, the risk for serious harm to the mother in late term pregnancy in addition to the painful death of the pre-born child is significant. There is also no opportunity for closure for the mother in the event her child's life expectancy is limited due to health problems. Emotional trauma for the mother as a result of abortion is not infrequent. There is a growing body of pregnancy support groups ready and willing to assist a woman in all stages of her pregnancy and after birth care both fiscally and materially.

All of these efforts to intervene in the lives of the children or adolescents with gender questions or of women with unplanned pregnancies or babies with life-limiting prognosis is misplaced compassion. It likewise follows an ideology that has no basis in scientific or medical research or appropriate psychological support. It appears to be one that financially benefits certain groups of people or corporations and political agendas for totalitarian purposes with the end goal of destroying the family. This is an ideology that one day will be regarded as horrific, whose time needs to come to an end with true skilled help and compassion offered those affected. And compassion for those who think that a bill like this is a good idea.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for your opposition to LD 227.