



Christian Civic League of Maine

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Maine Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Mike McClellan, Policy Director for the Christian Civic League of Maine. The Christian Civic League of Maine envisions a state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished. We believe a Biblical approach works in life and in our governance.

I am here to testify against LD 1771 Resolve, To Establish the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome editing Technology for the Citizens of the State. This resolve establishes the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State to study the implications of genome-editing technology and the legislative, administrative or other steps that the State should take to capitalize on the potential and avoid the hazards of genome-editing technology. The panel is directed to submit its report, including suggested legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the **131st Legislature by December 31, 2023. The panel is also directed to seek outside funding.**

In researching this proposed legislation, it is easy to find opinions ranging from a simply science perspective to a “solemn religious” view point. One seeks to continue human directed advances to grow and shape, onward and upward! The other honors a creator and is reluctant to create another Tower of Babel story (Genesis 11:1-9). Perhaps and likely, the answer falls in between.

While Christian Civic League of Maine has not spent a lot of time on issues like this, we find ourselves minimally against the legislation. We certainly would want to know a lot more about the implications of this work. In particular, we would need to have a knowledge of who would be serving on this committee. Who would lead this study?

We see a quote from the late Rev. Billy Graham as summing up our initial concerns. In 1998, Billy Graham gave a Ted Talk, during which he said, “The problem is not technology...The problem is the person or persons using it.” Our concern could be that if we give authority to a “Pandora’s Box, there is no going back.

Know that many are hopeful of your actions and are praying for you and your families. God bless,

Mike

Mike McClellan

Policy Director

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