

Parents' Rights in Education Maine
Testimony of Allen Sarvinas
In Support of
L.D. 492 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Provide for Parental Rights
March 4, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Allen Sarvinas, Maine state director of Parents' Rights in Education. I am testifying on behalf of thousands of Maine families who believe parents—not the government—are the primary decision-makers in a child's upbringing, education, and well-being.

We are here today because the fundamental rights of parents in Maine are under threat, and the consequences of inaction are dire. Across the state, we witness a troubling trend: parents being sidelined, ignored, and even vilified for simply trying to do what's best for their children. Maine must act now to ensure parental rights are permanently enshrined in our state's constitution.

The Consequences of Weak Parental Rights Protections

The numbers speak for themselves. Studies show that children with strong parental involvement are:

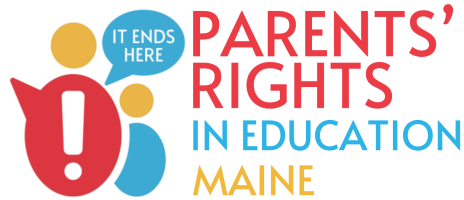
- 44% less likely to use drugs,
- 52% less likely to experience teen pregnancy, and
- 35% more likely to succeed academically (Harvard Center for Child Development).

Yet, despite this undeniable evidence, school districts across the country—including here in Maine—are actively making life-altering decisions for children without parental consent or even notification.

Tragic Stories That Demand Action

We've seen firsthand the tragic consequences of undermining parental authority.

- In Damariscotta, a mother discovered that school officials had been secretly transitioning her daughter's gender from girl to boy without her knowledge. The school justified their actions, claiming they were "protecting" the child from potential parental disapproval. Child Protective Services found all claims to be unfounded.



- In Fairfield, a father discovered powerful psychotropic drugs in his daughter's backpack in an unmarked plastic baggy. A provisional school social worker provided these drugs to his minor daughter without parental consent or knowledge. The parents withdrew their daughter from school, and all allegations by the district were proven unfounded by Child Protective Services.

These are not isolated incidents. These are the terrifying realities that happen when the government usurps the role of parents.

Why a Constitutional Amendment?

Some argue that existing laws are enough, but without explicit constitutional protections, parental rights are subject to the shifting whims of lawmakers, school boards, and courts.

A constitutional amendment:

- ✓ Ensures parents have the final say in their child's upbringing, education, and medical care.
- ✓ Prevents government overreach and keeps unelected bureaucrats from making personal decisions for our children.
- ✓ Creates a legal firewall against activist-driven policies that strip parents of their rightful authority.

Maine Must Lead the Way. You Must Lead the Way.

The passage of this amendment is not just about law—it's about protecting families, empowering parents, and securing our children's future. Maine has the opportunity to be a leader in ensuring that no parent ever has to experience the heartbreak of discovering too late that their child's future was taken out of their hands.

We urge the distinguished members of the Judiciary to fight for parents, to fight for the family unit, and to pass this constitutional amendment before more families are broken, before more lives are lost, and before more damage is done.

Thank You.

Allen Sarvinas
Topsham
LD 492

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