

Janet LeBlanc
Waterville
LD 1619

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Janet LeBlanc and I am a resident of Waterville. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1619. I also encourage you to oppose LD 776 and LD 1343.

First, it is important to remember the Dobbs' decision didn't change anything in Maine. All of our laws allowing abortion remain in place.

Secondly, Current Maine abortion law doesn't concern itself with the safety of the mother. LD 1619 will add to the neglect of safety of the mother in regards to abortion. Not requiring providers to have admitting privileges at a hospital, in case something goes wrong during the abortion is one of the way Maine law ignores the safety of the mother in regards to abortion. Having access to mail-order chemical abortions without seeing a medical provider is another way Maine law ignores the safety of the mother in regards to abortion. This lack of concern for the mother doesn't treat abortion as healthcare.

This bill will remove serious penalties for an unlicensed person who provides an illegal "back alley" abortion, and eliminates criminal penalties for licensed providers, who perform surgical abortions after the viability. This will undercut the law and provide tacit approval of people performing abortions illegally. This bill will add to Maine not caring for the safety of the mother regarding abortion. By removing the penalties for unlicensed people to provide surgical abortion it will further acknowledge that abortion isn't healthcare. To my knowledge all other surgical procedures in Maine required the person performing the surgery to be licensed in Maine.

Maine law should concern itself with the safety of the mother who is seeking an abortion. LD 1619 should not pass because it puts the mother's life at risk by removing penalties for an unlicensed person for performing a surgical abortion.