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LD 1619

I am Rev. MARRAINE KETTELL. I live in the town of Farmington. I am ordained in the United Church of Christ. I urge you to pass LD 1619

As a woman and as a member of the clergy, I firmly believe that each person has their divinely gifted bodily autonomy. Each one of us is empowered with our own moral agency to make decisions regarding our health and safety. LD 1619 advances Maine's access to abortion and the protection of each patient to honor that bodily autonomy. Such a bill will decrease harm to women who have been forced to carry late-stage pregnancies to term. It honors individual agency to make the best decision possible. I often say to my congregants that our body is sacramental meaning that it is holy because of our relationship with God. Our responsibility in turn is to care for our holy vessel in the safest and healthiest way possible in conjunction with our health providers. As people of faith, we are called to live out God's grace through justice, compassion, and hope. Passing LD 1619 supports our care for creation in honoring our bodies' health and safety.

These decisions need to be solely in the hands of the patient and the health care provider. Period. To honor that relationship between patient and provider, we must prohibit invasive data collection so that the person and their choice remains sacred. LD 1619 holds firm the personal nature of each decision by maintaining the confidentiality of identifying data that could make patients even more vulnerable in the midst of such a difficult choice. As Christians the Greatest Commandment calls for us to love our neighbors as ourselves. May we indeed love and trust one another and we would want to be trusted.

Please vote to pass LD 1619