

Renee Fortin
Lewiston
LD 494

Sen Carney, Rep. Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Renee Fortin, I live in Lewiston

I am writing in support of LD 494~ An Act to Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde Amendment, Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services.

Summary: Public Law 2019, chapter 274 enacted the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3196, which requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide coverage to a MaineCare member for abortion services. Abortion services that are not approved Medicaid services must be funded by the State.

The so-called federal Hyde Amendment prohibits federal Medicaid funding for abortions except in cases of life endangerment, rape, or incest. This bill repeals Title 22, section 3196, removing the requirement that the department provide abortion services to MaineCare members and removing the requirement that the State pay when the abortion services are not covered by Medicaid.

My reason for Support: This bill would roll back the law passed in 2019 that required Maine taxpayers to fund abortions.

It protects taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortion in violation of their conscience. It is a principle that has enjoyed historically broad support among Americans, regardless of their otherwise passionately divided views concerning abortion. It has also been life-saving: some analyses have found that limitations on federal funding of elective abortion, such as the Hyde Amendment, have saved well over two million lives.

Forcing Maine people to fund a "service" that they are categorically opposed to is morally reprehensible. Especially when it is called "reproductive health". Our elderly, those with Intellectual Disabilities, our homeless are need our tax dollars so much more than those who are opting for an elective medical procedure. Time to stop placing our elderly at the Back of the line for services.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 494