



**Grandmothers  
For Reproductive Rights**

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Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Cait Vaughan and I am a staff member with Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), an education and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing reproductive health, rights and justice for present and future generations. I'm testifying on behalf of GRR! in opposition to **LD 494: An Act to Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde Amendment, Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services.**

The premise of this bill is in direct opposition to the will of the Maine people who robustly supported private and public insurance coverage for abortion care in 2019 via passage of LD 820. Subsequently, opponents of removing insurance barriers to this care failed to acquire enough signatures for a people's veto. As a legal, safe and common medical procedure, abortion should not be subjected to restrictions not imposed on other medical services. Since 1977, the federal Hyde Amendment has perpetuated a two-tiered system of health care based primarily on income, with disproportionate impacts on Black, Brown and Indigenous Americans. When Maine passed LD 820 we joined 16 other states in proclaiming that income ought not to determine whether or not someone can determine their reproductive future.

GRR!s want pregnant Mainers to feel supported and safe, and LD 494 ignores the voices of Maine people. GRR! urges the committee to oppose LD 494.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Cait Vaughan & GRR!s across Maine