

**An Act to Protect a Woman's Right to Withdraw Consent for an Abortion
AND**

An Act to Prevent Coerced Abortion

Position: Support

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Ingrid Duran, I am the State Legislative Director representing the National Right to Life Committee. I come before you today to speak in support of LD 771 “An Act to Protect a Woman's Right to Withdraw Consent for an Abortion” and LD 1197 “An Act to Prevent Coerced Abortion.”

According to a peer reviewed research article by Vincent Rue, 64% of women often feel pressured into having abortions¹. Forms of coercion can look different, from a parent threatening to withdraw financial or emotional support to a partner threatening to leave or worse physically harming the pregnant mother. LD 771 safeguards a woman’s right to withdraw her consent from an abortion. No woman should ever feel pressured into making such a life-altering decision that will lead to the death of her unborn child without her full informed consent. LD 771 empowers women by informing them that they have every right to change their mind and withdraw consent. LD 1197 makes it illegal to coerce a pregnant woman from having an abortion and notifies her of her rights as well as giving survivors of domestic violence information on resources if they are being threatened.

This is a common sense law that does not prohibit abortion, and truly seeks to ensure that women know they can withdraw consent prior to having the abortion. Failing to protect pregnant women is wrong. Being pro-choice should also entail a right to say no to abortion. I ask the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 771 and LD 1197. Thank you!

¹ VM Rue et. al., “Induced abortion and traumatic stress: A preliminary comparison of American and Russian women,” *Medical Science Monitor* 10(10): SR5-16 (2004).