

Maine Atheist Freethinker and Humanist Association

Maine Chapter - Freedom from Religion Foundation

May 4, 2023

Re: LD 494 An Act To Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde Amendment, Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services

Members of the Committee on Judiciary, this is testimony AGAINST LD 494.

The Hyde Amendment restricts the use of federal Medicaid and Medicare funds for abortion care. Its effect is disproportionate, restricting abortion access for low-income people (primarily Black and brown communities). So it is discriminatory and racist in denying the rights treasured by other populations. Bringing Maine state law into alignment with this amendment would have the same result. It would also restrict abortion access for federal employees and their dependents, Native American and Indigenous people who use Indian Health Services, military members, and people in federal prisons.

Reproductive health care is legal in Maine. It is not right to make it less accessible for some but not for others. Please protect reproductive health care in Maine and vote against LD 494. Thank you.

Sincerely,

-Ray Vensel

Vice President, Maine Chapter Freedom from Religion Foundation