

An Act to Require an Ultrasound and Certain Counseling Before an 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 write in support of LD 1614, “An Act to Require an Ultrasound and Certain Counseling Before an Abortion.”

Ultrasound use prior to an abortion is routine care because it allows the physician to locate and date the pregnancy in order to choose which method of abortion to employ. A 2003 abortion provider study found that 98% of abortion providers use an ultrasound prior to performing an abortion.¹ Moreover, Maine’s abortion facility Main Family Planning also explains that an ultrasound is performed prior to performing an abortion. From their website: “After some more time in the waiting room, so that the medications can work, you will be called back to an exam room where you will have an ultrasound and the abortion.”² Currently 28 states require in their informed consent laws that the mother to be informed of her opportunity to see her own ultrasound, Maine can become the 29th state.³

Women deserve and have a right to see their ultrasound prior to an abortion. Uninformed choices are not free choices. A woman should not be denied information relative to her own experience. For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1614. Thank you!

¹ Benson J, Clark KA, Gerhardt A, Randall L, Dudley S. Early abortion services in the United States: a provider survey. *Contraception*. 2003 Apr;67(4):287-94. doi: 10.1016/s0010-7824(02)00512-7. PMID: 12684150.

² <https://mainefamilyplanning.org/abortion-services/#aspiration>

³ <https://www.nrlc.org/uploads/stateleg/UltrasoundFactsheet.pdf>