

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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May 5, 2023

Senator Anne Carney, Chair
Representative Matt Moonen, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

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

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong opposition to LD 494, *An Act to Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde Amendment, Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services*.

This bill seeks to repeal the provisions enacted in 2019 by the Legislature and signed by the Governor to include coverage for abortion care to all MaineCare members.

Access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care is integral to a person's physical, mental, and economic well-being. Every person in Maine has the right to make their own personal medical decisions and to access sexual and reproductive health care when and where they need it. It is critical that everyone in this state has access to affordable, high-quality health care, including reproductive services – and that they can obtain them free from harassment, intimidation, and undue barriers to services.

The Administration has consistently opposed similar bills in the past. What is different today is that on June 24, 2022, in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the U.S. Supreme Court abandoned nearly fifty years of precedent to reverse the constitutional right to abortion. That ruling has paved the way for states to severely limit or ban abortion outright, making retention of those rights and this access in Maine that much more critical.

The Legislature acted in the best interest of Maine people when you passed LD 820 in the 129th Legislature, and we encourage you to keep that critical piece of statute intact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne M. Lambrew".

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner