

Chuck Bradshaw
Hancock, Maine
LD 494

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

STATEMENT IN FAVOR

Senator Carney, Representative Mooney, and members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Chuck Bradshaw. I live in Hancock. I write this to you today in support of LD 494.

First, I want to commend the dignity and stamina with which you conducted the hearings on LD 1619 on Monday.

Now, regarding LD 494, I am writing to state my conscientious objection to taxpayer funding of abortions in Maine. I would prefer to see priority given to policies that assist women, children, and struggling families so as to encourage marriage, childbirth, and the nurture and protection of children.

Consequently, I ask your Committee to vote NO on LD 494.

I am also writing in FAVOR of these Bills:

LD 771 An Act to Protect a Woman's Right to Withdraw Consent for an Abortion

Our laws should be biased in favor of defending human life, including the lives of unborn human beings. If a woman should reconsider her decision to abort, at any time while the baby is still alive in her womb, her decision should be honored.

Please vote YES.

LD 1197 An Act to Prevent Coerced Abortion

“Get rid of it,” says the boyfriend, or maybe the husband. You heard testimony Monday evening or Tuesday morning from at least one woman who had been given that ultimatum. And perhaps, if the mother chooses to keep “it,” she is at risk of abuse or abandonment. This Act is no more than a common sense measure to protect the mother and her unborn young.

Please vote YES.

LD 1249 An Act to Protect the Quality of Care Provided via Telehealth by Prohibiting Physicians from Prescribing Abortion-inducing Drugs or Devices Through Telehealth or Other Electronic Communication

It is alarming that these powerful poisons, that are known to cause severe complications in some 20% of the women who take them, are so lightly regulated. A woman should be screened in person by her physician and be under the doctor’s care while taking these medications.

Please vote YES to enforce responsible limits on the distribution of chemical abortion drugs.

LD 1614 An Act to Require an Ultrasound and Certain Counseling Before an Abortion

On the Guttmacher Institute website, measures like this one enacted in other states are dismissed as “efforts to personify the fetus” and possibly dissuade the woman from having an abortion. In response, I charge the abortion industry with attempting to dehumanize the developing baby in the mother’s womb— against the best scientific evidence for the full humanity of the baby— and to convince the mother that abortion is her best, perhaps only choice. Again, in the belief that the State should be biased in favor of preserving human life as much as possible, I recommend approval of this Bill.

Please vote YES to ensure that pregnant moms are put in a position to make an Informed Choice.

LD 1809 An Act to Prohibit Health Care Services Without Parental Consent

A primary or secondary school, counselor, or medical care provider has a responsibility to respect the wishes of the parent of a minor. Parental consent is required before the child can have her ears pierced, or receive a tattoo, or go on a field trip, or have blood drawn, or even take an aspirin while at school. But under current law, no parental notification or consent is required for the child to receive treatment for drug or alcohol addiction, STD infection, mental health problems, birth control, or sexual assault; or for an abortion.

The school in its role, and these other professionals in their role of providing services (medical, mental health, etc.) to minors, are accountable to the minor child's parents; they are extensions of the parental role while the children are in their custody. It is their business to support the parents in their role, not to drive a wedge between the minor child and her or his parents. Are there abusive, violent, or negligent parents who might make the child's situation worse? Yes, some, but it is wrong for the law to treat all parents as if they were unfit to support their children.

Compared to having one's ears pierced, or seeing an R-rated movie, the circumstances that call for the treatments and services mentioned above have the potential to inflict lasting physical or emotional wounds on the child. The importance of the parents' full support, perhaps working in concert with the professionals, should be taken for granted. At the very least, the parents should be notified, and their consent sought, before administering these services to a minor. The parents might then consent to the treatment, while respecting the confidentiality of what goes on between the school staff person or other professional.

Please vote YES on LD 1809 in the interest of parents' rights.