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LD 1197

Please vote LD 1197 ought to pass. Think about this: would you be in favor of a bill that said the opposite of this one? That is, do you think anyone should have the right to coerce a women to have an abortion? Anyone who opposes this bill is basically saying that they do not think a woman should be protected from anyone who wants to coerce her to have an abortion. What does that tell you about the abortion industry? There are those who will testify that no abortion facility would ever coerce a woman to have an abortion, but that doesn't protect her from a man who does not wish to be held accountable for getting her pregnant. But it is a well established principle in Maine law that, "It is not what has been done, or ordinarily would be done, under a statute, but what might be done under it, that determines whether it infringes upon the constitutional right of the citizen. The constitution guards against the chances of infringement. It is evident that under this statute the citizen might in some cases be practically deprived of all remedy." *Bennett v. Davis* (1897) 90 Me. 102, 105, 37 A. 864, 865; *Sleeper, Applt.* (1952) 147 Me. 302, 308, 87 A.2d 115, *Jordan v Canton* 265 A.2d 96 (1970). Without LD 1197, what "might be done" is that a woman could be coerced into having an abortion, depriving both her and her baby of their rights. Why do abortion clinics oppose this bill? Do they want to protect irresponsible or violent men instead of protecting the women they claim to serve? Do they really want to protect a woman's "right to choose?" The word "choose" implies the ability to pick from various options. A woman cannot "choose" if someone is coercing her into making the decision they advocate. So if abortion clinics are really, truly in favor of a woman's right to choose, they should also be supporting LD 1197.