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Bristol, Maine
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Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Members of the Joint Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

The Maine Section of ACOG represents practicing obstetrician-gynecologists across the state committed to providing patient-centered, evidence-based obstetric and gynecologic care. **ACOG writes in support of L.D. 538 (H.P. 357): An Act to Amend Maine's Prescription Drug Labeling Law by Allowing the Removal of the Name of a Prescriber of Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Their Generic Alternatives.** Access to the full spectrum of medical care, including abortion, is essential for the health and well-being of Maine families. Physicians and other clinicians must be permitted to provide evidence-based medical care without outside interference or fear of criminalization.

To date, the state of Maine has made strides in expanding access to abortion and shielding clinicians from prosecution. This bill would be in furtherance of these efforts and build on Maine's existing laws, thus allowing Mainers equitable access without unnecessary logistical barriers.

ACOG has long advocated to improve access to safe abortion and affirms that abortion is an essential component of reproductive health care. Abortion care is uniquely targeted by violence, stigma, and marginalization and clinicians contend with exceptional challenges in provision of these services. Increasingly, states with restrictive abortion laws are moving towards dangerous legal practices and criminalizing pregnancy in general. These out-of-state hostile actors are also attempting to criminalize clinicians, both in their own state and those who provide abortion care for people from other states. These measures confer additional significant tangible threats on clinicians. Criminalizing healthcare providers for doing their jobs, providing evidence-based, necessary care, not only harms them (obviously), but also negatively impacts people who need access to needed services. Additionally, targeting and criminalizing specific sectors of healthcare, i.e. abortion exceptionalism, puts providers in the unwieldy position of having to weigh providing needed care versus assuming the threats of fines, licensure suspension or revocation, and jail.

The Maine Section of ACOG asks that this committee vote in support of Maine's ongoing efforts to protect access to safe and effective abortion care which will institute a simple measure to ensure provider confidentiality and safety. We ask that you vote in favor of passage of LD 538.

Respectfully submitted