



**TESTIMONY OF GLBTQ LEGAL ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS
IN SUPPORT OF
LD 538, 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**

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
March 19, 2025

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law) is a nonprofit legal organization that works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in Support of LD 538, 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 reproductive healthcare, including abortion care and miscarriage management (which may both use misoprostol), is an issue of critical importance to people across our state. This includes LGBTQ communities: women of all sexual orientations and transgender people can and do experience pregnancy and unintended pregnancy. Indeed, sexual minority women have a higher risk of unintended pregnancies than heterosexual women who have only male partners; this may be due in part to experiences of “minority stress” and high rates of intimate partner violence and coercion.¹

LD 538 would promote access to reproductive health services by protecting providers, particularly those who treat patients from states that ban or severely limit abortion. It would do so by enabling a prescribing clinician to list the name of their health care facility – rather than the individual clinician’s name – on specified prescription labels, thus adding another layer of protection from civil and criminal litigation targeting clinicians simply for providing legal abortion or other reproductive health services. Litigation unfolding in Louisiana and Texas against a New York abortion care provider has underscored the need for this legislation.²

¹ Bethany G. Everett, Katherine F. McCabe, Tonda L. Hughes, “Sexual Orientation Disparities in Mistimed and Unwanted Pregnancy Among Adult Women,” 49 *Perspectives on Sexual & Reproductive Health* (2017), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5819992/pdf/nihms884066.pdf>.

² See, e.g., Jamie Stengle, “New York doctor is fined in Texas, charged in Louisiana over abortion pills in tests of shield laws,” *Associated Press* (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/abortion-doctor-maggie-carpenter-pills-847112cde026e29333c3481310593582>.

Before and since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in its 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, Maine has displayed leadership on reproductive rights. Passage of LD 538 would build on previous actions the Maine Legislature has taken to protect critically important reproductive health services, the clinicians who provide them, and the patients who access them, including passage of LD 227 in 2024 to shield clinicians providing reproductive care and medically necessary healthcare for transgender individuals from hostile actions by out-of-state entities. GLAD Law respectfully urges this committee to support LD 538 to safeguard our state's healthcare providers and the patients who depend on them.

Sincerely,

Hannah Hussey
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GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders
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