

HP 162, LD 253

This is, as we all know, religious conviction insidiously worming its way into fiscal and healthcare decision-making. There is no reasonable financial or fiscal reason to pass this: of the 2,368 abortions performed on Maine residents in 2023 (per DHHS's data), let's assume they were all covered by MaineCare (they surely weren't), at, let's assume a rate of \$700 each, which would maximally total \$1,657,600. Not nothing, but approximately a rounding error in the scope of, let's take as comparison, the \$118 million MaineCare deficit.

MaineCare coverage is not the hammer of judgment. Those who don't approve are, as they always have been, welcome to not get abortions for themselves. But it seems quite targeted if not outright discriminatory to selectively not cover women's health services simply because they make some people uncomfortable. The rest of us aren't out here campaigning for the state not to cover healthcare services that give *us* the ick.

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