

HP 654, LD 1007

This bill reflects a fundamental and willful misunderstanding of the circumstances that lead women to have abortions, and the mindset in which we take and execute that decision. It is also anti-scientific, reckless, and dangerous.

On the premise: by the time we're in the doctor's office, we are sure that this is the choice we want and need to make. Saying more pointless and false words at us isn't going to make us change our minds. It makes us frustrated and upset, but not enough to be a deterrent: it is far, far less discomfort than the process of actually undergoing an abortion. Last-minute deterrence doesn't work and just wastes everyone's time and mental and emotional energy.

On the content: it is misleading, not to mention dangerous, to suggest that a medication abortion is reversible. This is neither sufficiently studied nor is it proven. If we're in the business of requiring healthcare providers to suggest unstudied, unproven, and dangerous methods, then we might as well be legislating that we use belladonna to make our pupils larger or putting cocaine back in our headache remedies, or, to take a real example, recommending that children not get their measles vaccines.

This is yet another in a long, long line of time-wasting efforts to make access to abortion ever more tedious and inconvenient. These efforts serve only as a self-serving political "quick win" for regressives. There is no conceivable positive outcome for Maine or Maine's women from the passage of this bill or any of its ilk.

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