



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

In Support Of

LD 94 An Act to Eliminate Miscarriage Reporting Requirements

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Monday, March 24, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 94, An Act to Eliminate Miscarriage Reporting Requirements, on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined we should testify in support of LD 94.

This legislation results from physician concerns with the requirement of a Department of Health and Human Services form outlining the information needed in the report if a patient has a miscarriage. We appreciate the Department's cooperation in attempting to alleviate the concerns. Still, this legislation is necessary to protect patient privacy. Our members are concerned for a few reasons.

First, our members believe that the benefits are outweighed by the fact that the results from the data collected will be inaccurate. The majority of miscarriages happen with no medical interventions, and therefore, the data collected from this will be underreported.

Second, if there is a medical intervention, the data will already be collected through other means. For example, if the miscarriage occurs when the pregnancy duration has reached over 20 weeks, then there will be a fetal death certificate, which must be filed with the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. *See 22 M.R.S. § 2841.*

Finally, miscarriages are often profoundly traumatizing for the parents and need to be handled delicately. Our members believe that the form is invasive and impacts their ability to deliver comprehensive reproductive care for the patients that they serve.

Our members believe this reporting requirement goes too far and that this statutory change to eliminate the reporting requirement is an important step forward in protecting patient privacy and confidentiality.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 94.

Thank you,

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