

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

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Re: LD 1154, An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne. Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing *in opposition of* LD 1154.

This bill inserts the State of Maine in the doctor-patient relationship and creates an obstacle between the pregnant woman and a legally allowed medical procedure. It is ultimately, anti-abortion bill with no other legal purpose.

By legally requiring the health care profession to inform the patient of perinatal hospice services, patients can easily conclude that the doctor's actions are at the direction of the State and thus may lose confidence in the actions of their doctor as not being in their best interest. The threat of discipline made to the doctor if found not to follow this legal protocol further undermines the doctor-patient relationship. I also wonder how physicians will feel about such a mandate and if they will want to continue to practice in the State of Maine?

Another factor making abundantly clear the true intent of this bill is that the *trigger* for the mandated legal requirements is the decision by the pregnant woman to elect an abortion, and *not* the diagnosis of the fetal anomaly itself.

In addition, what possibly is the justification for requiring a pregnant person with a fetus with a legal fetal anomaly who elects an abortion to have to certify in writing as prescribed by Maine law of her decision to decline perinatal hospice services. What is the State's interest other than to dissuade her from the abortion, further stigmatize abortion and cause further emotional pain?

Ultimately, LD 1154 is an impermissible effort to infringe on a pregnant person's right to an abortion and coerce her not to get an abortion.

We have lost our communal empathy for others; we are wrongly full of judgment and managing our neighbors' lives.

Thank you for considering my comment. Please vote "ought not to pass" on LD 1154.

Anne Gallaudet, Scarborough, ME