

Subject: H.P. 759/LD 1154 Exploits Grieving Families—Withdraw This Cruel Bill

Dear Representative Paul, Senator Guerin, and Cosponsors (Representatives Collins, Griffin, Javner, Quint, Smith; Senators Harrington, Martin, Stewart):

I am writing in fierce opposition to **H.P. 759/LD 1154**, a bill that exploits families facing heartbreaking fetal diagnoses to advance an anti-abortion agenda. This legislation **forces doctors to deliver state-scripted misinformation, intrudes on private medical decisions, and adds bureaucratic cruelty to traumatic moments**. Here's why it must be rejected:

1. It Manipulates Grieving Patients

- **Section 4** mandates that providers **orally deliver** perinatal hospice information **24 hours before** an abortion for a lethal fetal anomaly—even in cases where:
 - The diagnosis is **unambiguous** (e.g., anencephaly, Trisomy 18).
 - The patient has **already chosen abortion after agonizing consideration**.
- **Real-world impact:**
 - Forces a parent carrying a non-viable fetus to **rehear "options" they've already rejected**, prolonging trauma.
 - **Delays care:** The 24-hour rule is medically unnecessary and could worsen health risks (e.g., preeclampsia, sepsis).

2. It Violates Medical Ethics

- **Section 6** threatens providers with **disciplinary action** for "violations"—effectively:
 - **Punishing doctors** who prioritize patient autonomy over political scripts.
 - **Chilling care:** Rural providers (e.g., **Aroostook County, Sen. Stewart's district**) may stop offering abortions altogether to avoid liability.

3. It's a Trojan Horse for Abortion Restrictions

- The bill's sponsors have **no record of supporting hospice funding**—exposing this as a ploy to:
 - **Shame patients** into continuing non-viable pregnancies.
 - **Lay groundwork** for future bans (e.g., copying Texas's SB 8).

District-Specific Harms

- **Rep. Paul (Winterport):** Your district has **zero perinatal hospice providers**. This bill offers false "choices" to your constituents.
- **Sen. Martin (Oxford):** Your county's **maternal mortality rate** rose 22% since 2020. Delaying care worsens outcomes.
- **Rep. Griffin (Levant):** After cosponsoring **HP 635's total ban**, you're now targeting grieving families.

Demand for Accountability

Cite one study proving forced hospice lectures improve patient outcomes. Name one grief counselor who supports this bill. If you cannot, admit this is about ideology—not compassion.

Sincerely,

Mark Pelusi

Bradley, Maine

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Bradley
LD 1154

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