

Audrey Farber
North Yarmouth
LD 887

I have a hard time believing that hormonal run-off from medication abortions is a problem at any scale, let alone a scale worth legislating about. For example, the 2024 Portland Water District report has no mention of mifepristone or misoprostol (nor any other pharmaceuticals which surely are present in much higher quantities in our wastewater, due to sheer volume and prevalence, none of which we seem to be concerned about). And for those who haven't read it, Sebago Lake is still doing very well (<https://www.pwd.org/publications/2024-annual-water-quality-report/>).

Aside from the entire premise of this bill being wildly unnecessary, it's ridiculous to provide medical waste bags to patients undergoing a medication abortion. I'm not sure if the bill's sponsors have ever had to provide a urine sample, but if so I'm sure they've experienced the various difficulties and indignities of that task. Catching a miscarriage in a bag would be 100 times harder.

For those who do not already know either intuitively or from experience why this would be exceptionally hard and ridiculous, consider a typical menstrual cycle. Facts we know about this are that (a) it does not happen all at once and (b) it is not possible to "catch" all of it as much of it just comes out when you urinate, or shower, or just as general leaking or spotting. Now, condense this time frame but increase the volume being expelled. In addition, impose upon yourself fairly significant to excruciating abdominal pain, simultaneous nausea and vomiting, and simultaneous diarrhea. And now, you're asking me to hold a plastic bag there to catch — everything? Should I try to include or exclude the fecal matter? And then, do it again 20 minutes later? And again in a couple hours? How many bags do I get? What about the vomit? The urine? Do you also want the extra-absorbency pads soaking up everything else, or are those okay to throw away in the regular trash? Or, should I be sifting around in the toilet to find "the fetus" and isolate that in a red plastic baggie for my doctor?

Forget water contamination, this is repulsive, disgusting, and utterly unhygienic. If it's indeed so important to catch all residual molecules of the drugs perhaps just lend us chamber pots for the duration; these bills are medieval so we might as well use medieval technology to carry out their decrees.