

Michael McClellan  
Maine Right To Life  
LD 682

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Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Maine Judiciary Committee, my name is Mike McClellan. I am the Executive Director of Maine Right To Life, an organization that was established to honor the dignity and inherent value of every human life. Our mission is to safeguard the sanctity of life from conception to natural death by working to make abortion, infanticide, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia socially, ethically, and legally unacceptable while actively promoting compassionate alternatives.

We strive to inform, educate, and inspire individuals from all backgrounds to advocate for life at every stage. Our vision is a world where abortion becomes unthinkable.

I am testifying in strong support of LD 682, "An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Abortions." This bill is sponsored by Senator Haggan of Penobscot County. Many thanks to Senator Haggan for his continued support for women, babies and life. This bill takes necessary and commonsense steps to ensure accountability, transparency, and ethical medical standards regarding abortion procedures in Maine. It begins a move back from the radical laws Maine has recently enacted, even as a strong majority of the Maine public said no to these moves.

First, LD 682 strengthens data collection requirements, ensuring that crucial demographic information is recorded and analyzed. By including details such as race, marital status, and education level of those seeking abortions, this bill aligns Maine's reporting practices with national public health standards. Such data collection is essential for evaluating public health trends, understanding disparities in healthcare access, and crafting informed policy decisions that address the root causes of unintended pregnancies. In recent months, I have read that given the growth of using the abortion pill, which is often delivered by mail, some leading data organizations are sharing that their data work will begin to be less relevant. As Maine's leaders, you should desire the best data possible. LD 682 could ensure that.

Second, this bill refines the legal standard for post-viability abortions, ensuring they are conducted only in cases where they are medically necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother. This amendment establishes a more precise and objective standard, ensuring that post-viability procedures are reserved for truly critical situations. Please be clear, MRTL exists to help Maine towards a day that abortions never occur. In recent years, our state has moved in a disastrous direction, one that can arguably equate our abortion tolerance (on demand) for countries such as North Korea and China. In our eyes, something we should not feel good about as a state. LD 682 is not the final answer but moves in a good direction.

Finally, LD 682 reinstates criminal penalties for performing an abortion without a valid medical license or for conducting an abortion after viability in non-permissible circumstances. This ensures that only qualified medical professionals perform abortion procedures, safeguarding the health and safety of women. Moreover, it reinforces that Maine's laws on abortion are not merely guidelines but legally enforceable measures that protect both patients and the integrity of medical practice. One might question why Maine has allowed in recent years, the abortion industry to be protected from health and safety standards, from law enforcement? Why has Maine allowed non doctors to perform abortions? One answer might be the financial influence the abortion lobby has on the Maine government. Seeing (too) often, women seriously harmed or even dying nationally, it is easy to say that Maine has taken great risks with out abortion law elevation, and it is only a matter of time until there will be consequences. LD 682 thoughtfully seeks to protect women, babies and perhaps even Maine?

In summary, LD 682 strikes an important balance between public health transparency, ethical medical decision-making, and legal accountability. It ensures that post-viability abortions occur only under medically necessary conditions while preserving access to abortion before viability. Again, we look to the day abortions totally ends, I urge the Committee to support this bill as a responsible and necessary update to Maine's abortion laws. A solid move away from an unpopular radicalization of women's health where the state is gambling with real lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mike