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LD 1154

I strongly oppose LD 1154.

This bill imposes unnecessary, politically motivated barriers on people who are already going through one of the most heartbreaking experiences imaginable. LD 1154 forces patients—often those who have received devastating news about a wanted pregnancy—to wait 24 hours before accessing the care they need, and requires them to receive materials about perinatal hospice, regardless of their values, needs, or wishes.

That is not care. That is cruelty.

When someone finds out their pregnancy involves a lethal fetal anomaly, they are already facing an unbearable decision. They are grieving. They are navigating complex medical information and personal values. They do not need a state-mandated delay or to be handed hospice pamphlets as a condition of accessing abortion. They need compassion, privacy, and support—not more red tape.

Let's be clear: this is not about informed consent. Patients in Maine are already given comprehensive, medically accurate information by their doctors. Providers already explain all available options, including perinatal hospice when appropriate. LD 1154 simply forces a specific ideological message into the exam room, and delays access to essential care at a time when every hour matters—both medically and emotionally.

This bill takes an already excruciating moment and adds pain, shame, and forced waiting. It sends the message that the state doesn't trust patients or doctors to make the right decision together. And in rural areas especially, a 24-hour waiting period can mean multiple long-distance trips, missed work, or losing access altogether.

Abortion care in the face of fatal fetal diagnoses is deeply personal. It should be left to the person carrying the pregnancy, in consultation with their doctor and loved ones—not dictated by politicians.

LD 1154 is not about helping people—it's about controlling them. I urge you to reject this bill and respect the dignity and humanity of Mainers facing the hardest of circumstances.

Lindsay Gardner, Bethel, ME