

Michael McClellan
Maine Right To Life
LD 1154

From Maine Right To Life
3/27/25

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 writing to testify in strong support of LD 1154, An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice. This legislation is sponsored by Representative Paul of Winterport.

LD 1154 ensures that women facing the devastating diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly are fully informed of perinatal hospice services before making a decision regarding abortion. This bill upholds the principles of informed consent and compassionate care by ensuring that every woman has access to the resources and support she needs to make the best decision for her and her family.

A diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly is an unimaginably difficult experience for any expectant parent. During such a time of grief and uncertainty, it is critical that women have the opportunity to explore all available options, including perinatal hospice care. Perinatal hospice provides compassionate, multidisciplinary support to families who choose to carry their pregnancy to term, offering both medical and emotional care for the mother, baby, and family. Many families find comfort in the opportunity to cherish whatever time they have with their child, and they deserve to be made aware of this option.

This bill does not limit a woman's right to choose but instead ensures that she is equipped with comprehensive information. Maine Right To Life seeks a day that any abortion is unimaginable, however, the possible scenarios this issue presents, of course deserve the greatest empathy and compassion. Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice, and requiring health care professionals to provide a list of perinatal hospice services helps ensure that decisions are made with full awareness of all available supports. Furthermore, the written certification safeguards the integrity of this process, ensuring that every woman is given the opportunity to make a truly informed decision.

Passing this bill affirms Maine's commitment to patient-centered care, transparency, and the right of women to receive compassionate and comprehensive information during one of the most difficult times of their lives. I urge you to support this legislation and provide families facing a lethal fetal anomaly diagnosis with the dignity, respect, and information they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike