

Testimony Opposing H.P. 572 / L.D. 886: An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions

To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Darrell Hoy and I am writing today in strong opposition to H.P. 572 / L.D. 886, "An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions". This bill is not merely regulation; it is an intrusive attempt to control women's bodies and undermine their fundamental right to make their own healthcare decisions. It erects unnecessary and dangerous barriers to essential reproductive healthcare, including abortion and vital miscarriage management.

This bill's requirements – mandating in-person oversight by a healthcare professional for medication abortion and banning access through online sources – directly interfere with a woman's autonomy and her ability to access timely, private medical care. Every person has the right to decide what happens to their own body, free from political interference.

Furthermore, this bill dictates specific, controversial counseling points, including forcing providers to discuss disputed "abortion reversal" methods. This represents a dangerous overreach, placing the burden of determining appropriate medical counsel on legislators, not trained healthcare professionals. Medical counseling should be guided by evidence-based practices, professional judgment, and the unique needs of the patient – not by political agendas. We must trust healthcare providers to offer the advice and care that best fits each patient and situation, preserving the integrity of the patient-provider relationship.

Beyond interfering with medical judgment, this legislation dangerously ignores the realities of healthcare access in Maine. The very same medications this bill seeks to restrict are crucial for the safe management of miscarriages. Forcing women experiencing the distress of pregnancy loss to navigate mandatory, potentially distant in-person appointments is cruel and medically unnecessary. It delays care, increases risks, and disregards a woman's right to compassionate, accessible treatment during a difficult time.

Compounding this issue is Maine's existing struggle with a shortage of healthcare providers, especially OB/GYNs in rural areas. Imposing an in-person requirement only benefits those with the privilege of easy access. For many Mainers, particularly those in underserved communities, this bill translates to a denial of care, further entrenching health inequities and disproportionately harming those already facing barriers. This is unacceptable. Women's rights shouldn't depend on their zip code.

H.P. 572 is a direct assault on women's rights, bodily autonomy, and the trusted relationship between patients and providers. It inserts medically unnecessary hurdles

into accessing standard reproductive healthcare, impacting not just abortion access but essential miscarriage care as well. We need policies that trust women, respect their decisions, empower healthcare professionals, and expand access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare – not laws that create obstacles and endanger health and well-being.

I urge this Committee to stand up for the rights and health of Maine women by rejecting H.P. 572 / L.D. 886. Protect bodily autonomy, uphold medical ethics, and ensure equitable access to healthcare for everyone in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Darrell Hoy

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