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LD 887

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD887, which seeks to impose unnecessary and punitive restrictions on medication abortion while unfairly targeting manufacturers and providers with burdensome and unscientific regulations.

This bill is not based on medical evidence or public health concerns, but rather on a political agenda designed to restrict access to abortion care. Below are my primary concerns:

Unfounded Environmental Claims: The bill frames medication abortion as an environmental hazard by falsely linking it to endocrine disruption. There is no credible scientific evidence that abortion medications contribute to ecological harm any more than other commonly used pharmaceuticals. Singling out these medications for special disposal regulations is misleading and stigmatizing. While there may be future legislation on wastewater issues, it should not be limited to only medical abortion medications, when there are many medications that pass into the wastewater.

Unnecessary Manufacturer Liability: Holding drug manufacturers responsible for the disposal of medication abortion drugs is an extreme and arbitrary burden not applied to any other pharmaceutical industry. This sets a dangerous precedent for restricting access to essential medications based on ideology rather than science.

Burdensome and Unwarranted Requirements: Requiring providers to examine a patient physically, be present at the time of the abortion, provide a "catch kit," and schedule follow-ups serves no legitimate medical purpose. These mandates directly contradict the established safety and effectiveness of telemedicine for medication abortion, which has been endorsed by medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the FDA.

Severe and Unjust Penalties: Imposing a \$20,000 civil penalty for violations is excessive and intended to intimidate providers and manufacturers rather than protect public health. This extreme financial liability could limit access to care by discouraging providers from offering medication abortion.

This bill is yet another attempt to restrict reproductive rights under the guise of regulation. Medication abortion is safe, effective, and essential healthcare. I urge you to reject LD887 and ensure that Mainers continue to have access to evidence-based reproductive healthcare without unnecessary barriers.