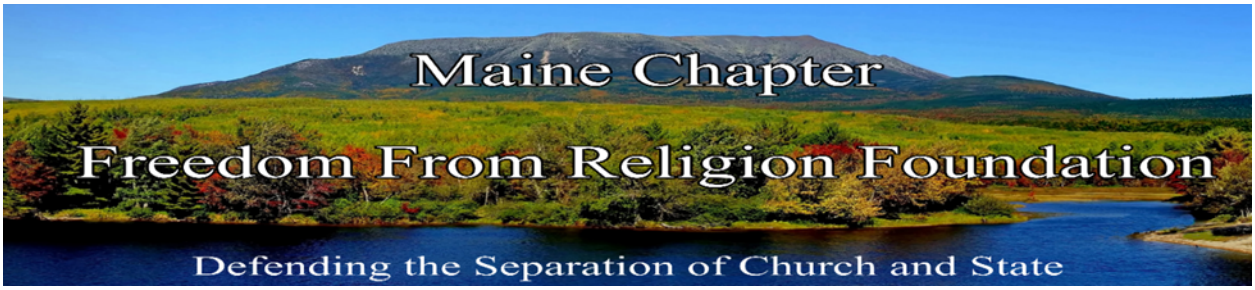


March 27, 2025

Re: LD 886, An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions

To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee

The Maine Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (MC-FFRF) writes to provide testimony AGAINST LD 886, An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions.

LD 886 proposes more stringent regulations and restrictions on medication abortions than are in place today. Such regulations are not only unnecessary but also harmful, as they limit access to essential healthcare and place undue burdens on individuals, especially those in marginalized communities. Regulating medication abortion introduces barriers to accessing a procedure that has been proven to be both safe and effective. These barriers include forcing individuals to visit clinics or healthcare providers unnecessarily, or introducing additional medical tests that are not needed, all of which contribute to unnecessary delays and complications.

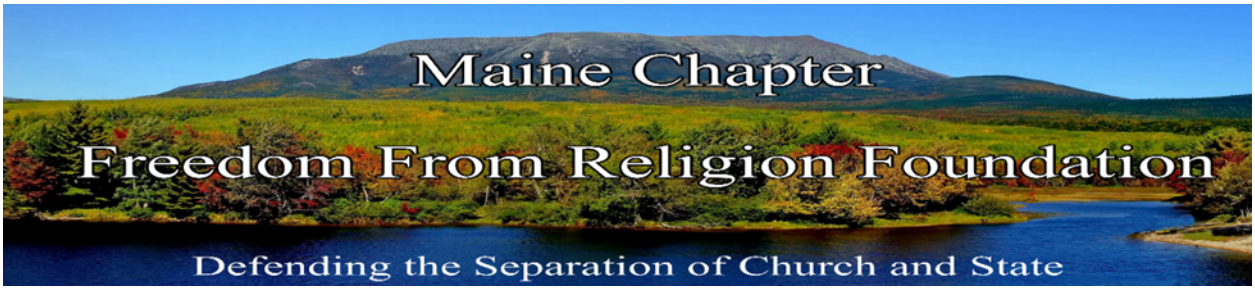
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of medication abortion pills, namely mifepristone and misoprostol, which are taken in combination to terminate a pregnancy. Medication abortion is highly effective, with a success rate of over 95%.

When done properly, medication abortion is safe and has a minimal risk of complications. Numerous studies and reports from health organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) affirm that medication abortion is a low-risk procedure, with complications occurring in fewer than 1% of cases. Complications, when they do occur, are typically treatable and do not pose long-term health risks.

The ability to access medication abortion is particularly important for individuals who face financial, geographic, or social barriers to obtaining an in-clinic abortion. Regulations that limit access can force people to travel long distances, miss work or school, and incur additional financial burdens. This disproportionately affects low-income individuals, who already face barriers to healthcare access. The regulation of medication abortion further disadvantages marginalized groups.

Regulating medication abortion also can have detrimental effects on public health, mainly by pushing people toward unsafe or unregulated alternatives. When access to legal and medically supervised abortion becomes more restricted, individuals are forced to seek unsafe, unregulated methods. The restrictions may also result in delays in obtaining care, which can increase the risk

Maine Chapter, Freedom From Religion Foundation
PO Box 161
Vassalboro, ME 04989-0161
President.RV@ffrfmaine.org
phone: 207-370-8813
www.ffrfmaine.org



of complications and medical risks. Studies have shown that when abortion access is restricted, the likelihood of unsafe abortions increases, which can lead to serious health consequences for the individuals involved. In the worst-case scenario, some individuals may resort to unsafe self-administered procedures or attempt to continue the pregnancy due to lack of access, leading to long-term health complications.

Not only would LD 886 restrict access to medication abortion, it would force doctors to lie to patients about so-called "abortion reversals", and we use the word "lie" advisedly. "Reversal" laws are opposed by leading medical organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), the Society of Family Planning, and the American College for Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). The latter's information is presented at the following web site:

https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/medication-abortion-reversal-is-not-supported-by-science

To summarize the information on that site, "abortion reversal" legislation causes confusion, perpetuates stigma, and steers women toward this unproven medical approach. The government should never mandate treatments or require that physicians tell patients inaccurate information. Unfounded mandates like this represent dangerous political interference and compromise patient care and safety. Bills like this erode trust between patients and their providers by forcing doctors to share misinformation. The state should not dictate private conversations between health care providers and their patients, and patients should be able to trust that the information from their medical providers is based on science, not politics.

We urge the committee to vote "Ought Not To Pass" on LD 886.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Ray Vensel, President

Maine Chapter, Freedom From Religion Foundation
PO Box 161
Vassalboro, ME 04989-0161

President.RV@ffrfmaine.org
phone: 207-370-8813
www.ffrfmaine.org