

## LD 682 An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortion

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Ruggiero. I live in Cape Elizabeth. I urge you not to amend certain laws regarding abortion.

### 22 MRSA 1596 sub-2 Abortion Reports

Data is gold. It is the foundation for scientific evidence that should be used to determine policy. We use it to understand trends, see patterns, and find solutions. However, it can also be weaponized. At this time, in this political climate, being a pregnant person is not safe. It really never has been. As evidenced, the additional changes requested in the call to 'amend certain laws' looks to restrict access and render services illegal. It would be great if the bill in fact, pleaded its case with an offer to help, but instead it issues a threat of restriction and criminalization.

### 22 MRSA 1598 sub 1-B Abortion After Viability

Having a single document prescribe the parameters for what actions can medically be taken regarding the health of a person is inappropriate, dangerous, and reckless. Medical providers know the context and circumstances of their patients. Any restrictions placed on when and how someone can receive an abortion creates tangible limits with the law and intangible limits by leaving medical providers to navigate grey areas delaying care or leading to a decision not to treat. Laws are like standard operating procedures. They must be written with enough guidance to operate but without being too restrictive to cause inaction. However, that is exactly the goal of introducing these amendments, to precipitate more and more restrictive parameters until abortion itself is either banned or there are enough restrictions to render it a useless avenue. Abortion is healthcare.

### 22 MRSA 1598 sub 3-B

It would be great if pregnant persons always felt comfortable going to a provider to obtain an abortion. Introducing 'licensing' stipulations is a restriction aimed at targeting pregnant persons in advance for if abortions do become banned and criminalize the act. People self-treat all the time. Self-treating a pregnancy is dangerous; so is forcing someone to remain pregnant just because another person feels they should.

### 22 MRSA 1598 sub-4

Again, adding unnecessary restrictions and any sort of criminalization forces medical providers and pregnant persons to carry the burden of providing proof, to supplicate to the ill-intentioned politicians that their actions were above reproach when it should have never been up the government to intervene or decide.

A woman in Georgia has been arrested for having a miscarriage and disposing of the fetal remains. She hasn't broken any laws. There are no laws around civilians disposing of miscarried

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fetal tissue. And yet law enforcement feels emboldened to arrest her, penalize her, and use her as an example to make others feel unsafe; to show the public the hardships they will face, not if they follow the law, but if they commit lawful acts they just don't agree with. If these amendments are approved, it will inch Maine closer to witnessing such appalling event.

One hundred years ago abortion was barely a topic of concern. It was unseemly but collectively the whole realized how essential abortion was. It was a mere misdemeanor, if any punishment was issued at all, until religion and oppression insidiously entered the picture.

None of the amendments in LD 682 are made in good faith with an intent to better life or society. They undercut medical professionals and more importantly the will of the patients/parents.

I urge you, please do not vote to pass LD 682. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Ruggiero  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 682

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