

## **LD 1154 An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice**

### **Testimony Against**

**March 28, 2025**

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

My name is Kimberly Grindle, and I am a resident of Islesboro. I am submitting this today in strong opposition to LD 1154, which seeks to mandate that informed consent for abortion include information on perinatal hospice.

While I understand the intention behind this bill may be to offer compassionate care options for families facing a difficult diagnosis, it is important to recognize that this bill imposes an unnecessary and potentially harmful burden on individuals seeking abortions under extremely difficult circumstances. When a person is faced with an abortion decision, it is already a deeply personal and often traumatic experience. Forcing individuals to navigate additional information about perinatal hospice as part of their decision-making process may create emotional and psychological distress, rather than providing the compassionate care it intends.

Perinatal hospice care is a valuable option for some families facing pregnancies with diagnoses incompatible with life. However, it is not a decision that should be mandated or pressured onto individuals seeking abortions. This bill assumes that all people facing such a diagnosis would want to pursue perinatal hospice, which is not true for everyone. People facing such profound decisions should have the right to make informed choices based on their personal circumstances, without the interference of political agendas or unnecessary legislative requirements.

Furthermore, adding additional requirements for informed consent may add to the emotional burden that individuals already face during an incredibly difficult time. Instead of empowering people to make decisions that are best for them and their families, this bill risks overwhelming them with information that may not be relevant to their situation. It may also contribute to feelings of guilt or shame for those who choose to end a pregnancy rather than pursue a course of action that is not right for them.

The decision to terminate a pregnancy is already one of the most personal and difficult decisions an individual can make. It should be based on their own values, health, and circumstances, not on additional requirements imposed by the state. Instead of mandating information about perinatal hospice, we should be working to ensure that people have access to the healthcare, support, and resources they need, without additional barriers or emotional burdens.

I urge you to reject LD 1154. This bill adds unnecessary complications to an already difficult decision and undermines the autonomy of those who need to make personal, informed choices about their own reproductive health.

Thank you.