

LD 886 An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions

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 and I am submitting this today in strong opposition to LD 886, a bill that seeks to impose unnecessary restrictions on access to safe, legal reproductive healthcare in Maine, particularly regarding medication abortions.

The provision requiring a healthcare provider to be physically present during a chemical abortion is both unnecessary and harmful. Medication abortions are a well-established and safe method for terminating early pregnancies. The current guidelines for medication abortions, endorsed by reputable medical organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, do not require the physical presence of a healthcare provider. Instead, they emphasize the importance of informed consent, proper follow-up care, and access to support, all of which are already included in current best practices for medication abortion.

This bill unnecessarily complicates and restricts access to reproductive healthcare, especially for individuals in rural or underserved areas. For many Mainers, traveling to a healthcare facility that requires a provider to be physically present for the procedure can be an overwhelming financial and logistical burden. People in remote parts of the state, those with limited access to transportation, or those who are juggling work and family responsibilities are disproportionately impacted by these added barriers. The reality is that forcing individuals to travel long distances for a procedure that is safely and effectively managed remotely with proper medical supervision is both unnecessary and cruel.

The provision that holds manufacturers responsible for the disposal of abortion drugs may sound reasonable on the surface, but it introduces a new layer of bureaucracy that could delay access to care and impose additional costs without improving the safety of the procedure. Medication abortion drugs are already subject to strict federal regulations, and further state-level regulations will only create confusion and additional administrative burdens for healthcare providers and patients.

The reality is that this bill, like others that were before you, seek to restrict access to abortion and does not address public health needs. Instead, it imposes unnecessary restrictions that punish those who are already vulnerable—low-income individuals, people of color, survivors of domestic violence, and those who live in rural communities. These are the very people who often face the greatest challenges in accessing reproductive healthcare, and this bill only makes it harder for them to exercise their constitutional right to make decisions about their own bodies and health.

I urge you to reject LD 886. This bill is a step backward for reproductive rights in Maine and will only harm those who need access to safe, legal, and compassionate healthcare the most.

Thank you.