

March 28, 2025

Esteemed Committee Members:

My name is Christine Cattan R.Ph. I have been a constituent of Penobscot County residing in Eddington, ME for the past 27 years. I have been employed as a Registered Pharmacist in this state since 1996. I was hoping to testify in person; however, I could not due to the volume of testimonies presented. I am against the presented bills LD 682, LD 886, LD 1007, and LD 1154. These bills are thinly veiled to limit women's access to healthcare in the State of Maine. It appears that these bills did not seek any input from the medical community or current Medical Boards, and it is my civic duty to share from my perspective with my expertise.

Addressing these bills in turn:

- LD 682 requires reporting abortions to the "department" of National Association of Public Health Statistics. The reporting requirement would be a government overreach and could have the negative effect of dissuading mothers from seeking abortion from the safety of a licensed medical professional if reporting becomes mandatory. There is no similar requirement for reporting men's procedures, such as treatment of men's sexually transmitted disease, erectile dysfunction treatments, or prostate tumor removal. These procedures for men would be covered by healthcare information protection laws, women's healthcare including abortion should too be covered by HIPAA, and the privacy of women should be valued equally to that of men. The Supreme Court case *Griswold v Connecticut* established privacy in family planning matters, which includes contraception. This right of privacy should apply especially to mothers directly affected by this situation.
- LD 886 is redundant legislation regarding obtaining oral medication for Medication Abortion. Online pharmacies are already required to have a valid prescription written by a duly licensed practitioner. Full-counseling information is also required to be included with the prescription as well as a 1-800 number provided to the patient for additional counseling and answering of questions. Mail Order Pharmacies in order to ship medication

to the state of Maine must be duly licensed with the Maine Board of Pharmacy and keep this licensure in good standing. This is clearly stated per Maine Administrative Code Chapter 11. If Representative Paul knows of pharmacies practicing outside this scope of practice, I would hope she is reporting these pharmacies utilizing bad practices to the Maine Board of Pharmacy as well as, the Board of Pharmacy of the state the Mail order pharmacy is located. If the pharmacy is overseas, one that was specifically alluded to a Dutch company, it should be reported as a minimum to US Customs and other pertinent departmental agencies.

- LD 1007 and LD 1154 pertain to informed consent for drug-induced abortion and perinatal hospice. These bills propose guidelines on how healthcare providers must practice. It is a slippery slope when a legislative board dictates what medical information a practitioner must disclose. The FDA is responsible for providing warning labels for medication. Perhaps Representative Paul should make a request to the FDA regarding her concerns. Regarding LD1154 perinatal hospice, it is highly probable this information is already being provided to patients. As healthcare providers, there is an oath to do no harm and ensure that patients receive adequate information. I will not believe career politicians, unless they are a medical professional, can understand the level of commitment health care providers assume. Therefore, I feel strongly that this matter should be determined by the medical community rather than the legislature.