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May 19, 2025

Senator Anne Carney - Chair
Representative Any Kuhn - Chair
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station Room 438
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: LD 1930: An Act Regarding Acts of Violence Committed Against a Pregnant Woman

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

MACDL opposes LD 1930.

A pregnant person is already protected by law in a myriad of ways. For one illustrative example, see Title 17-A §208-C which is the Crime of Elevated Aggravated Assault on a Pregnant Person. This is a Class A crime which is punishable by up to 30 years in prison. Title 17-A §208-C prohibits serious bodily injury to a pregnant person and that definition includes the termination of the pregnancy. Again, this is one illustrative example of the protections afforded to a pregnant person.

What is important to note is that Title 17-A §208-C does not define what it means to be pregnant nor does the definition section of Title 17-A, which is §2.

LD 1930 defines what constitutes an unborn child in a very specific way. Maine's abortion statute, Title 22 §1598 does not even do that. Title 22 §1598 speaks in terms of viability.

It appears that the real purpose of LD 1930 is to define for the first time, under Maine law, what constitutes the start of life by expanding the definition of "human being" or "person" to include the fusion of a sperm to egg, i.e. an embryo at conception. This would force Maine down a slippery, treacherous slope towards criminalizing abortion, as a plethora of other bills this session have attempted to do. Do not be fooled by the supposedly "simple" proposal this bill advances –its true purpose is as clear as it is perilous.

Passage of this bill would mark another dangerous step towards the erosion of people's rights to bodily autonomy. Pregnant people are already protected under the law—people who harm a

pregnant person while pregnant, resulting in the termination of the pregnancy, can already be punished severely for that crime. LD 1930 does nothing to add to those already existing protections.

MACDL urges this committee to vote OUGHT NOT to pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this very important topic.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jeremy Pratt, Esq.,
President, MACDL