

Stacey K. Guerin  
Senator, District 4



3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
131st Legislature

**Testimony of Senator Stacey Guerin**  
**In opposition to L.D. 616, An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing**  
**Reproductive Health Care Services**  
**Before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee**  
**May 1, 2023**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services: I am Senator Stacey Guerin and I represent District 4, which includes all of Piscataquis County and 11 communities in Penobscot County. Please accept my testimony in opposition to L.D. 616, *An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing Reproductive Health Care Services*.

This legislation is yet another example of the government interfering and telling businesses how to operate. Generally, if a health care professional has violated a state (medical) law or had their license revoked, it's a big red flag. However, this legislation seeks to protect individuals who have done so in other states by prohibiting a malpractice insurance provider from taking any adverse action against a health care professional, such as an OB/GYN, providing abortion and other reproductive health care services. Insurance companies and health care professionals work under a contract; this would infringe on pre-determined contractual agreements.

According to a March 2021 report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the number of OB/GYNs is expected to decrease 7% while demand is projected to increase 4% by 2030. Knowing there is a need for more OB/GYNs and health care providers of various specialties, why are we trying to protect one class of health care professionals who could very easily re-locate if they don't agree with their state's policies?

If passed, this would set a terrible precedent. Bills such as L.D. 616 are bad for insurers and may create unintended consequences for patients. I encourage you to vote against this legislation.