



Grandmothers For Reproductive Rights

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Testimony in Favor of LD 616 An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing Reproductive Health Care Services
May 1, 2023

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee ,

My name is Dr. Connie Adler, and I practiced women's medicine in Farmington for 30 years. I am also the Board Chair of Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), an education and advocacy organization led by grandmothers and elders dedicated to advancing reproductive health, rights and justice for present and future generations. . I'm writing to testify on behalf of GRR! in support of **LD 616: An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing Reproductive Health Care Services**. We oldies remember when desperate pregnant folks were forced to travel dangerously and in secret to find providers who feared for their licenses while providing necessary care for them. We want better than that for Mainers and for all of us.

I am grateful that you are taking up this issue and, frankly, appalled that it is necessary.

The Guttmacher Institute reports that since the Supreme Court overturned Roe last year, nearly 40 million women of reproductive age now live in a state hostile to abortion rights¹. They are being forced to leave their home states to fulfill their pregnancy decisions. Anecdotally, we have not seen many people coming from other states to Maine because of our relative remoteness. But there are a few folks with ties to Maine, family and friends, who come here in panic when they cannot get help at home. In compassionately meeting the needs of these beleaguered women, medical providers should not have to worry about malpractice suits or altered malpractice rates simply for carrying out their professional oaths and duties. This bill would provide some measure of legal protection for abortion providers so they can perform their medical duties without risking adverse action from malpractice insurers due to draconian laws in other states.

LD 616 protects Maine providers and strengthens the reproductive health care laws here. As the country faces increasing criminalization of pregnancy with confusing and shifting rulings, Maine providers should not be threatened by other states' restrictions on medical care that is legal here. We can be kinder and better than that.

GRR! urges the committee to vote in favor of LD 616.

¹ <https://www.guttmacher.org/abortion-rights-supreme-court>



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Sincerely,
Connie Adler, MD and GRR!s Across Maine