

**An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing Reproductive
Health Care Services**

Oppose

Senator Bailey Representative Perry, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Committee. My name is Karen Vachon. I am the Executive Director of Maine Right To Life in Auburn. I come before you today to speak in Opposition LD 616 **An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing Reproductive Health Care Services**

This bill shouts – abortion first; woman’s safety second. The Pro-Abortion industry likes to tell us that Abortion is Reproductive Healthcare. It isn’t. For starters, there is nothing reproductive about it. But, specifically, in addressing this bill, if you call abortion healthcare, then abortion should be held to the same licensing, health and safety standards as every other medical facility and medical procedure. Out-of- State providers that come here to perform abortions should be held accountable. This bill doesn’t do that. Maine may as well be the wild, wild, west – anything goes, no accountability, and who cares about women.

This bill is dangerous. Women deserve better. Not only does Maine have some of the most permissive laws in the country, the safety of women is something every Mainer should be concerned about.

Unlike most states, which require that abortions only be performed by a licensed physician, Maine allows lower level health practitioners to perform them as well. While they are “allowed” to perform an abortion, there is no guarantee that these lower level health providers has the specialized knowledge and experience to perform an abortion or render medical aid during a complication. That’s scary!

Further – this bill creates a special exception allowing and encouraging abortion providers in other states who break their state's abortion laws. It forbids medical malpractice insurance providers to consider any licensing or other infraction related to abortion when providing coverage in Maine. Thus creating a sanctuary state for abortion activists to come to Maine.

The very nature of insurance is to mitigate risk. The lower the risk, the lower the cost of insurance. Insurance is all about protection. This bill asks insurers to ignore the law. Unscrupulous abortion practices performed in other states by a doctor who comes to Maine are completely ignored.

Abortion at any cost with no accountability is what this bill is about. Please vote Ought not to pass. Women deserve so much better.

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