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Testimony in Opposition to LD 935
“An Act to Remove Barriers to Abortion Coverage in Private Insurance”

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services: I am Representative Amy Arata from New Gloucester and I am testifying in opposition to LD 935, “An Act to Remove Barriers to Abortion Coverage in Private Insurance”.

In addition to the obvious objection to requiring private businesses to cover a procedure that many find abhorrent, I object to prioritizing abortion coverage over all other types of health care coverage. Abortions should not be free while much more important and life-saving procedures such as diagnostic mammograms, cancer treatment, and even maternity care require deductibles, co-payments, co-insurance and other cost-sharing requirements. The loss of revenue would have to be absorbed by all other payers of the insurance, again making those who oppose abortion pay for them and increasing the cost of health insurance for everybody. This focus on abortion at the expense of everything else is unreasonable.

I also object to the lack of a fiscal note on this bill. This bill will add costs to the state employee health insurance plan. Fiscal notes are supposed to be a true estimate of the cost that taxpayers incur as a result of passing a bill. They are supposed to be objective, not subject to political whims. As a former member of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee for 4 years, I have seen fiscal notes added and removed based on politics, not reality. This is financially irresponsible and the Maine people expect us to manage their tax dollars well.

Please consider all of your constituents and vote against this bill.

Respectfully,

Amy Arata
State Representative