

Good afternoon. Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee my name is Tanja Hollander and I'm testifying in support of LD 935. I was here a little over four years ago testifying for LD 820.

In 2016, I found out I was pregnant shortly after my 44th birthday. I'd spent most of my adult life trying to avoid pregnancy and was shocked to find out I was pregnant. I'm a self-employed artist, and the pregnancy came when I was working 14-hour days, financially maxed out, with only three months before a major museum deadline. I knew there was no way that I could finish the work while pregnant, I was already feeling uncomfortable and having difficulty working. Deciding to have an abortion was not one I came to lightly-- even though there was no doubt in my mind. I feel things very deeply, and being pregnant when you don't want to be is awful.

I called my doctor to schedule a pregnancy test and medication abortion. They told me that I could schedule the test, but not "the other thing." For that they would refer me to a clinic.

I hung up and called Planned Parenthood in Portland (a 45-minute drive from my home), but the first available appointment was weeks away, which would be close to the ten week limit for a medication abortion. At that time, there were no pills by mail and Maine law prohibited Nurse Practitioners from administering the pills for a medication abortion. New Hampshire didn't have a ban; I could get an appointment four days later in Concord, about a two-hour drive each way.

Because I couldn't get care at home, my insurance wouldn't cover my procedure. It cost \$475, I had a remaining balance on a credit card of \$550 which I used to pay.

I feel incredibly lucky that I had the resources to pay for the abortion, to travel over four hours roundtrip to take a pill, to take time off from work. I know not everyone does. I can't imagine being young and scared AND having to figure out how to pay for care because your health insurance won't.

You should be able to make your own decision about whether to end a pregnancy without insurance companies denying care, and without having to travel far from home because of outdated laws.

Please pass LD 935 so that more people can get the care they need.