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THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

Testimony of Senator Stacey Guerin
In opposition to L.D. 935, An Act to Remove Barriers to
Abortion Coverage in Private Insurance
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. 935, *An Act to Remove Barriers to Abortion Coverage in Private Insurance*.

Every year, we see the number of proposals telling businesses how to operate or what they can or cannot do increase; L.D. 935 is another example of this. As the owner of a business for many years, I can tell you first-hand that many of these bills are cumbersome and financially burdensome to companies.

With respect to L.D. 935, I want to remind folks that in many cases abortion is elective. According to recent data from the Charlotte Lozier Institute, which analyzed reasons for abortion in eight states, 95.7% of abortions were for elective and unspecified reasons; rather than cases of rape/incest, life/major bodily function, fetal abnormality or physical health.¹ If someone is choosing to have an elective procedure that is not medically necessary, they should have some buy-in. The first dollar coverage requirement for abortion services will put an unnecessary strain on insurance providers and could result in higher health care costs overall.

Please oppose L.D. 935.

¹ Fact Sheet: Reasons for Abortion. Charlotte Lozier Institute, August 2022.