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THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

Testimony of Senator Stacey Guerin
In support of L.D. 494, An Act to Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde
Amendment, Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services
Before the Judiciary Committee
May 5, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary 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 support of L D 494, *An Act to Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde Amendment, Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services*

As a woman who came of age during the generation of abortion legalization, my friends and I were told that abortions were not killing babies, instead that the fetus was just a “blob of tissue” Scientific medical advances have proved, that as young women, we were lied to, pregnancy sonograms clearly show a baby

Four years ago, I testified in opposition to a bill that ultimately expanded abortion services, for those on MaineCare, at the expense of Maine taxpayers

As recently as January of this year, polling has shown that 60 percent of Americans are opposed or strongly opposed to taxpayer funded abortion¹ I would note that the number of those opposed to taxpayer funded abortions has increased since a similar poll was conducted in January 2022 Knowing that the majority of Americans oppose taxpayer dollars being used for abortion services, I have to ask the questions Why are we allowing this to happen? Is it not our job to put laws and policies in place that reflect the wishes of our constituents?

There are many serious budget priorities before the Legislature that Mainers are asking for us to consider Funding for nursing homes, child care, and roads and bridges for safe travel, are just a few There are areas of the state on the verge of becoming maternity care deserts, rather than using taxpayer dollars to eliminate the lives of these precious baby boys and girls, perhaps we should look at finding ways and funding to provide greater obstetric care for Mainers, too?

I support L D 494, which would conform state funding of abortion services to the Hyde Amendment, because it better reflects how the majority of people feel when it comes to the use of taxpayer dollars Please support L D 494 and all the pro-life bills being heard today

¹ Post Roe Poll *Knights of Columbus, January 2023*