



Christian Civic League of Maine

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Maine Committee on Judiciary, I am Mike McClellan, Policy Director for the Christian Civic League of Maine. The Christian Civic League of Maine envisions a state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished. We believe a Biblical approach works in life and including in governance.

I am here to testify in support of LD 494, An Act to Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde Amendment, Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services. This legislation is sponsored by Representative Javner of Chester.

The abortion industry is well funded already, we do not need to supplement their profits. Most Americans consistently oppose using taxpayer dollars to fund abortions.

*A 2022 Marist poll found 54% of Americans oppose federal taxpayer funding of abortion both domestically and overseas.

*A 2021 Marist poll similarly found that 58% of Americans oppose or strongly oppose using taxpayer dollars to support abortion. That included a majority of Independents (65%) and 31% of Democrats.

The majority of states (34 and DC) conform their Medicaid funding for abortion to the requirements of the Hyde Amendment. It is our belief that no one should be forced to pay for an abortion. Taxpayer funds should not be used to extinguish valuable, innocent human lives through abortion. Maine has a compelling interest in protecting life rather than funding—directly or indirectly—its destruction.

It would appear that this religion of abortion, and a \$330,000,000 industry has Maine government's attention even as our elderly, those with Intellectual Disabilities, and our homeless are in need of our support. Given our government is charged with protecting the weakest, Maine is choosing to fall very short. Rep. Javner's bill would both stop the feeding of this multi-million dollar corporation that is obviously well connected in Maine government but perhaps more importantly, would provide funding for Mainers at risk and in real need.

Thank you for your time and consideration today.