

OPPOSE- LD1691 "An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws" Speaker Talbot Ross
OPPOSE- LD 776 "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the Right to Bodily Autonomy" (Sen. Hickman)
OPPOSE- LD 1343 "An Act to Protect the Reproductive Freedom of Maine People by Preempting the Field of Abortion Regulation" (Rep. Supica)

May 1, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Heather Sirocki, I live in Scarborough, and I oppose the three bills before you.

What happened here in Maine after the Dobbs' decision returned abortion laws to each state? Absolutely nothing. Maine had already put into law the provisions involved with the Roe and Doe decisions.

As you all know, Janet Mills' campaigned that she would NOT expand Maine's current abortion laws. But here we are with her bill and many others.

Gov. Mills stated her "legislation is inspired by the story of Yarmouth resident Dana Peirce, who had to seek an abortion out-of-state after she discovered her child was suffering from a deadly form of skeletal dysplasia, a random, rare genetic mutation." Gov. Mills explained Ms. Peirce's baby had a deadly disease. Deadly. And Ms. Peirce stated that her baby "had a rare and lethal form of skeletal dysplasia." Lethal.

As Gov. Mills and the baby's mother both acknowledge, the baby, sadly and tragically, had a deadly and lethal disease. It is unclear to me why this mother chose to go out of state for her abortion, given that she legally could have terminated her pregnancy here in Maine since Maine's existing law already allows late-term abortions for non-viable babies.

Current Maine law is broad and expansive. In Maine, one does not need to be a doctor to perform an abortion; one does not need to have an ultrasound; abortion clinics are not required to have state safety inspections; taxpayers are forced to pay for abortions; and, in case something goes wrong, providers are not required to have admitting privileges at a hospital, and there is no wait period.

If this bill passes, it will legalize abortion to due date, many weeks past viability, for any reason, as long as the provider agrees to perform the procedure, and that provider does not need to be a doctor.

Further, LD 1619 proposes to eliminate the criminal penalty if an abortionist is caught without a license. ("Any person not so licensed who knowingly performs an abortion on another person or any person who knowingly assists a nonlicensed person to perform an abortion on another person is guilty of a Class C crime.")

It is my understanding, this baffling change would result in the abortion law defaulting to Maine's generic licensing laws.

In other words, if this law passes, an abortionist could perform an invasive medical procedure that involves the late-term delivery and killing of a viable baby, in a dirty clinic, going in blindly - without an exploratory ultrasound, and get caught with no license, but could only be charged ... with a low level misdemeanor. How is this just?

The last things a woman facing this difficult decision needs to worry about is if the clinic is clean and the provider is licensed.

This scenario is admittedly **rare**, perhaps as rare as Ms. Peirce's tragic situation.

This scenario should not be **legal**, and how can anyone think this is **safe**?

Women deserve better. Maine deserves better.

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