

Magdalena Escudero-Kane, Brunswick
Monday, May 1, 2023

LD 1619: An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

Governor Janet Mills, House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Senate President Troy Jackson, and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Judiciary [LD 1619: An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws]

My name is Magdalena Escudero-Kane. I am from Brunswick, Maine. I am speaking on behalf of the Bowdoin Reproductive Justice Collation. I am writing to support LD 1619: An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws.

Maine's Reproductive Privacy Act is crucial for safeguarding reproductive rights and justice. This updated legislation marks a significant step towards achieving these objectives within Maine. The removal of the gestational ban is particularly crucial as it ensures that pregnant individuals in Maine have access to comprehensive healthcare services that cater to their physical and mental health needs. The government should not interfere with pregnancy decisions; pregnant individuals must have the autonomy to make informed choices in consultation with healthcare providers. Limiting abortion access beyond 24 weeks of gestation can exacerbate the difficulties experienced by many people in Maine. There is also the added concern of criminalization and harassment toward individuals seeking abortion care. Maine needs to revamp its data collection practices to protect patient safety. The criminalization of people assisting pregnant individuals with self-managed abortions is another concern. While self-managed abortion is safe, criminalizing this practice can severely hurt pregnant individuals. It is essential to support this legislation to ensure that individuals can access the care they need without fear of legal repercussions.

I strongly encourage you to heed the voices of those who have spoken about their personal experiences with abortion. While I do not have a personal story to share today, I am here to express my concern over the impact this legislation could have on my own life and all Mainers. I have witnessed the challenges that individuals face when seeking legal abortions, including friends who have had to travel for up to 16 hours to obtain necessary care. I have also seen them overwhelmed by the significant financial burden accompanying the process. These are the real consequences awaiting individuals seeking abortions beyond 24 weeks in Maine. It is my sincere hope that you will take action to support those seeking abortion care within the state of Maine.

Thank you for giving me your time. The removal of the gestational ban, improving safety in data collection, and updating the criminal code will all improve the lives of Mainers. I urge you to vote for LD 1619: An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws.

Sincerely,
Magdalena Escudero-Kane