

May 23, 2023

To: Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable members of the committee

From: Emily Gorrivan

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1902, An Act to Protect Personal Health Data

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and fellow members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Emily Gorrivan and I live in Portland, Maine. I am writing today as a concerned citizen to testify in support of LD 1902, An Act to Protect Personal Health Data.

LD 1902 provides basic privacy protections for data that is not covered under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). As stated by the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington “[p]eriod tracking apps, people’s location history, and even their shopping patterns can expose a lot about a person’s health – all data not protected by HIPAA.”

This data abuse may result in barriers to abortion and gender-affirming care. However, **Maine has the opportunity to create protections – protections that are urgently needed** in the wake of regressive policies passed by neighboring states and a major reversal of the *Roe* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. With this bill, businesses and non-governmental organizations will be restricted from collecting, using, retaining, or disclosing reproductive health information that isn't essential to providing the service someone asks them for.

Our health data is sensitive, and the stakes for misuse are high. I urge the committee to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1902, An Act to Protect Personal Health Data. Thank you for your consideration.