

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 29

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Testimony of Senator Anne Carney in support of
**LD 538, “An Act to Amend Maine’s Prescription Drug Labeling Law by Allowing the
Removal of the Name of a Prescriber of Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Their Generic
Alternatives”**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Committee*

March 19, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I am Senator Anne Carney, proudly representing Senate District 29, which includes South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, and part of Scarborough. Today, I am pleased to testify as a Co-Sponsor of LD 538, “An Act to Amend Maine’s Prescription Drug Labeling Law by Allowing the Removal of the Name of a Prescriber of Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Their Generic Alternatives.”

Following the demise of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, many state legislatures have passed bans or severe restrictions on patients’ access to abortion care. Eight states, including Maine, where abortion is legal, have acted to protect health care providers through a comprehensive shield law. The laws safeguard providers of legal, essential reproductive and transgender health care from overreaching actions by out-of-state actors, including lawsuits against providers and records request for purposes of investigating patients who receive lawful care.

In New York, a physician has been unjustly targeted in two separate cases for mailing abortion medication to patients in Texas and Louisiana. New York, one of the states with a shield law, allows licensed providers to provide medication abortion to patients no matter where they live. Medication abortion, such as by using Mifepristone and Misoprostol, is a highly safe, effective form of health care in a patient’s first trimester. In fact, 63 percent of all abortions in the formal health care system were medication abortions in 2023.

In Texas, a county judge issued an order to block the New York physician from sending abortion medications to Texas and to fine her \$100,000. In Louisiana, the governor requested the doctor be extradited out of New York.

As explained in news outlet The 19th, “These cases likely will not halt telehealth abortion immediately. But they are expected to yield complex, drawn-out legal battles — one that could end up in the U.S. Supreme Court — with vast possible ramifications.”

These cases are proof that LD 538 is a necessary additional layer of protection for Maine providers of reproductive health care. The legislation would allow prescriptions labels for Mifepristone, Misoprostol and their generics to include the name of the prescribing health care facility, rather than the provider’s name. These threats to providers are no longer abstract. We must take this additional step to safeguard Maine’s health infrastructure and our commitment to protecting all clinicians in our state.

Keeping the provider’s name anonymous is a necessary protection in these difficult times when attacks on abortion care access are persisting across the country and prescribers of these medications are facing real threats. Other states are beginning to take similar actions, with Washington and New York recently enacting the same policy and various others, including Vermont and Colorado, considering bills this year.

We can no longer rely on federal action when it comes to acts of violence facing clinicians providing abortion care. As we have seen in the last two months, anti-abortion extremists are being emboldened, with the Department of Justice’s move to no longer enforce the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act that serves to protect individuals obtaining reproductive health care services at health clinics. Additionally, 23 anti-abortion extremists prosecuted and convicted under the FACE Act for their intimidation and harassment were pardoned by President Trump.

In our rural state, where we grapple with a clinician shortage, and where clinicians are rightfully scared for their safety, allowing pharmacies to remove the provider’s name from these medications is a simple, yet significant step we must take to keep our health care heroes safe.

I urge you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 538, “An Act to Amend Maine's Prescription Drug Labeling Law by Allowing the Removal of the Name of a Prescriber of Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Their Generic Alternatives.”

Thank you for your time and consideration today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Anne Carney
State Senator, District 29