



**Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth  
In Support of LD 94, "An Act to Eliminate Miscarriage Reporting  
Requirements"  
Monday, March 24, 2025**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Sarah Calder, Senior Government Affairs Director at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify in support of LD 94, "An Act to Eliminate Miscarriage Reporting Requirements."

MaineHealth is an integrated non-profit health care system that provides a continuum of health care services to communities throughout Maine and New Hampshire. Every day, our over 24,000 care team members support our vision of "Working Together so Our Communities are the Healthiest in America" by providing a range of services from primary and specialty physician services to a continuum of behavioral health care services, community and tertiary hospital care, home health care and a lab.

LD 94 eliminates the requirement that providers report to the Department of Health and Human Services a miscarriage of a fetus less than 20 weeks gestation. Last year, the Maine CDC distributed an updated miscarriage reporting form to hospitals. Given that miscarriages before 20 weeks often do not require medical intervention, our providers were alarmed by this reporting requirement and feared that their ability to practice medicine could be impacted by not meeting these reporting requirements. DHHS informed hospitals that a statutory change was necessary to eliminate this reporting requirement, and we thank Representative Graham for sponsoring this important legislation.

The sponsor made several critical points that I would like to emphasize:

- The data that is currently being reported to the Department is underreported and inaccurate as most miscarriages before 20 weeks occur outside of a medical encounter.
- The nature of a miscarriage makes it difficult to accurately complete the form. As one example, for a miscarriage that occurs at home, there would be no "Attending Health Care Professional." Additionally, a miscarriage does not happen in a single

moment in time, or in a specific location, and can occur before a woman even knows that she is pregnant.

- For the purposes of data analysis, the Maine Health Data Organization would have the claims data for miscarriages that involve a medical encounter.
- For a miscarriage or still birth after 20 weeks, a fetal death certificate is required.

Lastly, it is our understanding that Maine is the only state in the country to require health care providers report miscarriages before 20 weeks, and we urge you to eliminate this burdensome and inaccurate reporting requirement.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.