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Testimony on
L.D. 682, "*An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions*"

Presented by
Representative Tracy Quint
District 8

Judiciary Committee
Friday, March 28, 2025

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

I am State Representative Tracy L. Quint, and I proudly represent District 8. It is an honor to appear before you today to speak in favor of L.D. 648, "*An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions.*"

When I first became aware of this this bill potentially becoming law last session, I was horrified. When this bill actually became law, I was heartbroken. I think of my nephew, who was born at 26 weeks to teenage parents. Convenient, no. An unexpected blessing, absolutely. Today, he is a young man who I cherish and talk to for hours at a time. He did not become a baby the second he was born, he was a baby before his birth.

Medical advancements no longer declare babies in utero as a mere clump of tissues. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia performs surgical procedures on babies in the womb at 23-25 weeks. Babies born at 24 weeks have a 60-70% survival rate while babies born at 28 weeks now have a 80-90% survival rate.

The Mayo Clinic states that fetal surgery is a procedure done on an unborn baby to save the life or improve the outcome of a baby who is not developing as expected during the pregnancy. Highly skilled fetal surgeons and their teams can treat many birth defects in babies who are not yet born. Before a baby is born, early fetal surgery treatment for life-altering health problems can make outcomes better in some cases. When done by fetal surgery experts in select babies, surgery before birth can have even better results than surgery after delivery.

Experts use fetal surgery to treat these conditions among others:

District 8 Amity, Crystal, Danforth, Haynesville, Hodgdon, Island Falls, Lakeville, Lee, Mattawamkeag, Orient, Sherman, Springfield, Stacyville, Talmadge, Topsfield, Vanceboro, Waite and Weston, Plantations of; Glenwood Plantation, Macwahoc Plantation, Reed Plantation, Drew Plantation, Carroll Plantation, Webster Plantation and Codyville Plantation, the unorganized territories of; Bancroft Township, Benedicta Township, Cary Township, South Aroostook, Forkstown Township, Molunkus Township, Silver Ridge Township, Kingman Township, Prentiss Township, Twombly Ridge Township, Whitney (Pukakon) Township, Forest Township, Brookton Township, Forest City Township, Kossuth Township, Lambert Lake Township and North Washington (Part) and and Block 4293 of Tract 952900

Bladder outlet obstruction, lower urinary tract obstruction.

Congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation (CCAM), a mass of lung tissue that is not cancer but can continue to grow.

Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH).

Congenital high airway obstruction syndrome (CHAOS), when the airway of a fetus is partly or fully blocked

Mediastinal teratoma, when a large mass grows in the space between the two lungs, called the mediastinum.

Pediatric neck mass, when there is a lump or swelling in the neck.

Pulmonary sequestration of the lung, a mass of lung tissue in the lower airway.

Sacroccygeal teratoma (SCT), a tumor that grows from the baby's tailbone before birth.

Spina bifida, a neural tube defect

Abnormalities involving twins.

Some fetal surgeries include:

Shunt placements.

Radiofrequency ablation for fetal tumors.

Fetal heart intervention.

Intrauterine blood transfusion, which involves injecting a donor's red blood cells into a fetus.

A series of infusions that add amniotic fluid to the uterus when the baby's kidneys don't develop or for complex kidney diseases.

Surgical intervention with abnormalities involving twins.

I find it interesting that that both the Mayo Clinic and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia use the word babies to describe the human that these surgeries are performed on, not a clump of tissues, but a baby. It is gut-wrenching to know that at this same stage, these babies can be aborted, mutilated and their organs, tissues and very being can be sold for a profit. An amendment to the bill last session would have prevented this practice and I was shocked that the legislative majority voted against the

prohibition of the selling of human parts. Since the medical community is performing these life-intervening and life-saving procedures and surgeries on babies in the womb, how can we continue to justify this extreme law that allows for these same babies to be killed for any reason up until birth. They are, in fact, humans in their own right. It is extreme to proclaim, my body, my choice when these surgical procedures are performed on separate bodies. Unique separate bodies with their own DNA and their own potential for greatness. It is my great desire that this committee would repeal this extreme law and vote ought to pass on LD 682.