

3/27/25

Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Maine Judiciary Committee, my name is Mike McClellan. I am the Executive Director of Maine Right To Life, an organization that was established to honor the dignity and inherent value of every human life. Our mission is to safeguard the sanctity of life from conception to natural death by working to make abortion, infanticide, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia socially, ethically, and legally unacceptable while actively promoting compassionate alternatives. We strive to inform, educate, and inspire individuals from all backgrounds to advocate for life at every stage. Our vision is a world where abortion becomes unthinkable.

Maine Right To Life is in strong support of LD's 253, 682, 886, 887, 1007 and 1154. MRTL just held our Annual Hand's AT The Capital event on Wednesday in the Maine State House Hall of Flags and we had the chance to honor and recognize organizations and people who value Life from womb to tomb. Senator Bradstreet and Representative Smith joined other speakers who extolled ideals like the importance of women's safety and providing information/giving options - features also seen in today's 6 bills. We commend Representative Javner, Senator Haggan, Representative Griffin, and Representative Paul for standing up for Life with these common sense bills.

It is a difficult time in our culture, 15 years ago as I served in the Maine House - the 2 sides were able to work together and there did not seem to be such a divide as you all work through today. These elected legislators who stand for Life today are taking risks in standing up but they still do it. I know Rep. Griffin posted a bill for today that she just killed. Her bill had many components to it, to be honest there were parts I would have endorsed and others I could not. The beauty of our side being an open tent is we can have debates and work to make things better. I expect Rep. Griffin will return with a bill next session that our side can better agree on. I like what I see in the legislation presented today and where these leaders are attempting to move us. While today may not be ultimately successful for us, the ideas of integrity, protecting women and babies are just too big to stay down. Our time is coming soon.

To end, I was given a study at our Hands event the other day. The key take away from the study: Study entitled- The Effects of Abortion Decision Rightness and Decision Type on Women's Satisfaction and Mental Health. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37303450/> 226 women were studied with 33% wanting the abortion, 43% allowed the abortion to happen but said it was inconsistent with their values and preferences and 24% saying the abortion was unwanted or coerced. **60 percent** reported they would have preferred to give birth if they had received more support from others or had more financial security. Today's bills surely serve Maine's women better than our current laws. I hope you each can look at these pieces of legislation, think about what is best for Maine and especially Maine women and then do the right thing by supporting each bill..

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike