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**Maine Family Planning
Testimony in Opposition to
LD 253, LD 682, LD 886, LD 887, LD 975, LD 1007, LD 1154
March 28, 2025**

**Testimony of Laura Harper, Senior Associate, Moose Ridge Associates
On behalf of
Maine Family Planning**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, my name is Laura Harper. I live in Hallowell and am a senior associate at Moose Ridge Associates. I am here today to present testimony on behalf of Maine Family Planning in opposition to the following bills, LD 253, An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services; LD 682, An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions; LD 886, An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions; LD 887, An Act to Make Manufacturers Responsible for Proper Disposal of Abortion Drugs and Require a Health Care Provider to Be Physically Present During a Chemical Abortion; LD 975, An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion; LD 1007, An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion; and LD 1154, An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice.

Mainers have made it clear that their access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare is essential to their lives. Since the fall of Dobbs in 2022, they have twice elected a pro-reproductive rights majority to the statehouse. These seven anti-abortion bills being introduced in the state legislature, on the other hand, would harm patients' health by limiting access to essential sexual and reproductive health care. Furthermore, these bills have no scientific basis.

Maine Family Planning offers a full spectrum of compassionate, nonjudgmental, expert care. Our services include birth control, STI testing and treatment, abortion, treatment or referral for cervical cancer and breast cancer screening, behavioral health, and primary care. Maine's family planning network is a critical backbone of the state's public health ecosystem. We collectively serve 31,000 patients across 19 Maine Family Planning clinics, four Planned Parenthood of New England health centers, 32 federal qualified health centers, and eight school-based health centers.

Decades of research tells us that abortion is a very safe medical service. Its rate of complication is lower than other common medical procedures, like getting a wisdom tooth pulled. Access to safe, effective abortion care is essential for us to make decisions about our bodies and our lives. These anti-abortion bills will only roll back patient protections and erect barriers to abortion care.

In this moment in US history, fewer patients have access to lifesaving abortion care, especially those of color and with low incomes. Anti-abortion organizations and advocates choosing to push forward this slew of bills to stigmatize and restrict access to essential health care is shockingly out of step with what people want. A national 2024 KFF poll shows 70% of women of reproductive age support a nationwide right to abortion.

Medication abortion is also extremely safe and used in almost two-thirds of all clinically-provided abortions in the US. It is also an effective treatment to safely manage a miscarriage. It is safer, in fact, than other commonly used drugs, like Tylenol, penicillin and Viagra. Medication abortion has been clinically proven to be a safe and effective method for ending a pregnancy, and has a 20-plus-year track record in the US.

Pertaining specifically to LD 1154, when it comes to families who learn their baby has a fatal diagnosis, some people make the difficult decision to end the pregnancy and forgo treatments that have no hope of saving their baby's life, instead of spending their final moments holding their baby and saying goodbye. Medical decisions like this are complex and deeply personal and the last thing a family needs is anti-abortion policies that belittle families' experiences with false, inflammatory claims.

Hostile, anti-abortion organizations and advocates should not be permitted to substitute their political agenda for scientific judgment and decision-making authority over the availability of safe and effective medications and procedures. Everyone deserves access to this fundamental medical care.

On behalf of the reproductive health experts at Maine Family Planning, I urge you to reject LD 253, LD 682, LD 886, LD 887, LD 975, LD 1007, and LD 1154. Thank you.