



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 28, 2025

Testimony  
In Support of

### **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***

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and the members of the Judiciary committee, my name is Reagan Paul and I am proud to represent House District 37. I am here to present my bill 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.***"

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of what is known around the country as the **Clean Water For All Life Act**—a bill that is not only necessary for protecting our environment but is also crucial for safeguarding the health and well-being of the American public, especially women and children.

As the sponsor of this bill, I stand before you deeply concerned about the profound and far-reaching dangers posed by the widespread use of Chemical Abortion Pills. These pills, which are now responsible for more than half of all abortions in the United States, and now 70% of Maine's abortions per the 2023 Abortion Report, are both dangerous for women and lethal to preborn children. LD 887, would require the clean-up and removal of deadly chemical abortion pill tainted human remains and placenta, referred to as medical waste by the EPA, using Red Medical Bag Waste Disposal. Currently, women are flushing their children and medical waste into America's drinking water against all common sense practices without regard for public health and safety.

Let me be clear from the outset: when I speak of "medical waste" in regards to this bill, I am using an EPA term. I am not diminishing the sacred, irreplaceable value of the preborn child lost to chemical abortion pills. These are human lives, tiny sons and daughters with beating hearts, fingerprints, and futures stolen from them. The term is a legal one. But I won't mince words. I seldom do. These pills kill babies and endanger women and the fallout poisons our water and many souls alike. LD 887 confronts this crisis with love for the hurting and boldness for the truth.

The impact of Chemical Abortion Pills on women cannot be overstated. When taken by a mother, the first pill starves the baby by blocking progesterone, the pregnancy hormone, then the second pill forces wrenching contractions to expel the baby, sometimes still moving, as we'll see. Women who undergo a chemical abortion are at a significantly higher risk of complications—up to four times more than those who undergo a surgical abortion. These complications include severe bleeding, infection, blood clots, infertility and even death. Moreover, the pills can be secretly administered, slipped into

District 37 Frankfort, Prospect, Searsport, Stockton Springs, Winterport

drinks without a woman's knowledge or consent, making them a tool for abuse, coercion, and sex trafficking. This widespread distribution, particularly through online channels, exacerbates the dangers and vulnerabilities of women and young girls.

A Pennsylvania mother's story breaks my heart-and should break any heart in my opinion. Turned away by Planned Parenthood in May 2024 for being too far along, she ordered the pills online. According to an NBC report, she took them on May 9th, texting a witness on May 10th saying "it just now came out", "and it's like a full baby", " and it's still moving." She sent photos of her child, with umbilical cord and the placenta.. She wrote, " it has fingernails and lips and a nose" and reported that she cried when the baby moved. Even Planned Parenthood's Casi Scully admitted, "If you're accessing medication online, it may not be regulated and you may experience complications.." This mother had to face her child and what she had done and now we must face the reality of this barbaric practice and come to terms that children deserve better than being flushed away. Important to note is that while once regulated, over time, Democrat Presidential Administrations have weakened the Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategies (REMS) surrounding these pills, with former president Joe Biden making the pills available for online order without a pregnancy test, thereby taking away all protections that were once best practices such as in person visits and follow up appointments.

But the dangers of Chemical Abortion Pills extend beyond the immediate harm they cause to women and children. Once the pills are taken and the abortion process is complete, the remains of the destroyed baby, including blood, placenta tissue, and human remains, are often flushed down toilets, ending up in our water systems. This pathological medical waste is now entering our nation's waterways unchecked, potentially contaminating our water supply and endangering the environment. This contamination introduces Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)—substances that interfere with the hormonal regulation in the human body—into our water, which is then recirculated into the public drinking water system and used in agricultural irrigation. These chemicals pose a significant risk to the fertility of humans, animals, and plants, and the long-term effects are unknown.

Women taking the abortion pills are instructed to flush the products of the abortion (placenta, the human embryo, blood) in the toilet. This healthcare or medical waste can be "hazardous if not disposed of properly." Additionally, given how one of the abortion pills (misoprostol) is administered, some of that medication could be passed into the toilet as well, according to the Colorado based Comprehensive Women's Health Center website. All of this could then pass to wastewater systems, potentially affecting the fertility of animals and fish, according to an article by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), titled Don't Flush! Why your drug disposal method matters. Scientists explained in that article that "drugs that are designed to disrupt our endocrine system, also disrupt the endocrine system of fish and other aquatic organisms when they get into our waterways. Scientists at the Atlantic Ecology Division have found that hormones called progestins, affect the number of eggs that female cunner fish produce. They also interfere with the way hormones function within females and males. By improperly disposing of pharmaceuticals, we further contribute to the amount of chemical exposure aquatic animals are subjected to, and that may potentially threaten the population sustainability of shellfish, fish, and other aquatic animals. The best thing you can do to help lessen the problem is to utilize Drug Take-Back Programs."

We cannot afford to ignore the environmental and public health implications of this toxic waste entering our water supply. The current situation is untenable. While hospitals and clinics must adhere to strict disposal guidelines for medical waste, at-home chemical abortions are exempt from these critical safeguards. This means that human remains and toxic chemicals are being irresponsibly flushed into the water systems of communities across the country, possibly creating hidden public health risks that we are only beginning to understand.

This is why the Clean Water For All Life Act is so vital. This bill will require that Chemical Abortion Pills be treated with the same level of scrutiny as other dangerous chemicals, such as PFAS (commonly referred to as "forever chemicals"), which the EPA has recently started to regulate. The bill will mandate that those distributing chemical abortion pills must provide women with the necessary means and instructions to safely dispose of the remains of their children—ensuring that these remains do not end up in our wastewater systems and further pollute our environment.

Additionally, this bill holds accountable those responsible for the chemical waste from abortion pills, requiring them to cover the costs of environmental cleanup when their products are found to pollute public waterways. This regulation will ensure that the dangerous chemicals and remains from Chemical Abortions do not continue to contaminate our water supply without consequence.

It should alarm all of us to realize that we do not yet fully understand the extent of the contamination caused by EDCs in our water. We do not yet know the full impact of these pollutants on fertility, public health, and the environment. What we do know, however, is that toilets should never be allowed to serve as temporary tombs for tiny human remains—only to be flushed into our wastewater treatment facilities, where they cannot be removed during the treatment process and then may be recirculated back into our drinking water system or discharged into the surface water, where it is then used by us all, from farms that produce our food to tap water and aquatic life. That is exactly what is happening today, all across the country.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, in discussing medical waste disposal in non-medical locations, notes: Home based health care can create medical waste which can be hazardous if not disposed of properly. Inappropriate medical waste disposal can pose harmful environmental concerns and significant health risks to the public... The importance of routine medical waste disposal and destruction practices should be stressed at all city and county levels of collections."

As a matter of fact, there is groundbreaking research by Students for Life of America, testing the water upstream and downstream of wastewater treatment facilities, as well as water sourced from taps that the wastewater facility serves. They have partnered with doctors who have written a peer reviewed white paper that has been submitted for publication. The testing showed that the three active metabolites from the chemical abortion pill Mifepristone were detectable in all three locations that were tested.

The Clean Water For All Life Act is our opportunity to stop this harmful practice and put protections in place that will safeguard the health of future generations. It is a necessary step in ensuring that the chemical abortion industry is held accountable for its impact on the environment, that women are educated on safe disposal practices, and that our water is free from harmful toxins that can impact the health of all Americans.

I urge you to pass this critical bill and stand with me in protecting both human life and our environment from the dangerous consequences of unregulated chemical abortion practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Reagan Paul  
State Representative



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### **LD 1007 *An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion***

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and the members of the Judiciary committee, my name is Reagan Paul and I am proud to represent House District 37. I stand before you as a voice for the women and preborn children of Maine—both of whom deserve trust, dignity, and the full truth when faced with life-altering decisions. I am here to present my bill LD 1007 “***An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion***” a bill that ensures women are informed about the possibility of saving their baby's life if they regret taking the first abortion pill.

We hear a lot about the right to choose—but what kind of choice is it if women aren't given all the facts? If we ensure that a woman has every opportunity to end her pregnancy, shouldn't we also ensure that she has every opportunity to change her mind and choose life? LD 1007 does exactly that—it empowers women with the truth and gives their pre-born babies a fighting chance.

Chemical abortions now account for 63% of all abortions nationwide, and in Maine, that number rises to 70%. The process begins with mifepristone, a drug that cuts off progesterone, starving the baby of the nutrients he or she needs to survive. What many women don't know—and what this bill ensures they are told—is that this doesn't have to be final.

Time is of the essence. If a woman seeks reversal, she must do so within 24 hours of taking mifepristone for the best chance of success. Once the second drug, misoprostol, is taken, reversal is no longer possible. There is a narrow window of hope, and women deserve to know it exists. By administering progesterone—a hormone safely used for decades in pregnancies, from IVF to high-risk cases—doctors can counteract mifepristone's effects. Peer-reviewed studies and real-world evidence from organizations like Abortion Pill Reversal show a success rate of 64 to 68%. That's a chance to save a life—a chance women deserve to know about.

But to be clear, once the second drug, misoprostol, is taken, reversal is no longer possible. That's why this information must be given upfront—because a mother who wants to save her child should not have to find out about reversal when it's already too late.

Imagine a woman who takes mifepristone, then feels an overwhelming wave of regret. Maybe she acted in haste, under pressure, or without fully understanding what was at stake. Now imagine she learns—too late—that she might have had a chance to continue her pregnancy, to hold her healthy baby in her arms. That regret, that psychological wound, cuts deeper than we can measure. Studies tell us many women suffer physically and emotionally after abortions, and that harm is magnified when they feel deceived or uninformed. LD 1007 is about preventing that pain.

The science is clear. Babies born after reversal attempts show no increased risk of birth defects; their outcomes mirror the general population. As of this month, Heartbeat International estimates over 6,000 children are alive today because their mothers chose reversal after taking mifepristone. Six thousand beating hearts. Six thousand stories of hope. That number could grow right here in Maine if we act.

Opponents might argue this information complicates things. I say it clarifies them. Women can handle the truth. They deserve to know that mifepristone's risks come with alternatives, that regret doesn't have to be the end of their story. This isn't about pushing an agenda; it's about trust. It's about ensuring that a woman who changes her mind isn't left in the dark, wondering "what if?"

Picture a young woman, alone in her bathroom, staring at that pill bottle, her heart sinking in regret. Knowledge of reversal could be the lifeline she needs—the difference between despair and deliverance, between loss and life. If we're serious about informed consent, if we're serious about choice, then LD 1007 isn't optional—it's essential.

For the women of Maine, for their children, and for the fundamental right to life, I urge you to support this bill. Give mothers the chance to choose life. Give them all the information.

Thank you.



Reagan Paul  
State Representative