



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Kathy Irene Javner**

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### Testimony in Support of Legislation to Repeal Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Judiciary Committee

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Judiciary  
Committee:

I come before you today to urge your support for the repeal of taxpayer-funded abortion in Maine. At a time when our state faces a nearly billion-dollar budget shortfall, we must prioritize our limited resources responsibly. Eliminating taxpayer funding for abortion is not only a fiscal necessity but also a matter of fundamental moral and ethical concern.

The Hyde Amendment, enacted in 1976 with bipartisan support, established a long-standing principle that federal taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is at risk. This policy has been upheld for decades, recognizing the deeply held convictions of millions of Americans who oppose abortion. While Maine is not bound by the Hyde Amendment in state-funded programs, the principle remains: taxpayers should not be forced to fund a practice that so many find morally objectionable.

Public funding of abortion compels taxpayers to support a procedure that many believe ends innocent human life. Government should never mandate its citizens to act against their core values, particularly when it comes to matters of life and death. The fundamental right to freedom of conscience must be upheld in our budgeting decisions, and forcing Mainers to subsidize abortions directly contradicts that principle.

Additionally, our state faces significant financial challenges. Maine's budget is stretched thin, and we must make difficult decisions about how to allocate resources. Taxpayer dollars should be directed toward critical needs such as education, infrastructure, and healthcare services that preserve and enhance life, rather than terminating it. Funding elective abortion is an unnecessary expense.

Beyond financial concerns, repealing taxpayer-funded abortion is a step toward fostering a culture that values life. By discontinuing this funding, we not only act as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars but also take a stand for the dignity of every human being. Every child deserves the opportunity to live, and every taxpayer deserves the right to direct their hard-earned money toward causes that reflect their values.

I respectfully urge this committee to vote in favor of repealing taxpayer-funded abortion in Maine. This measure is about fiscal responsibility, moral integrity, and respecting the deeply held beliefs of Maine's citizens. It is a necessary and just step toward saving both money and lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With Much Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Javner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Javner".

Kathy I. Javner  
State Representative