



Founded to **protect** and **uphold** the **dignity** and **worth** of human life from conception to natural death.

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Senator Ingwesen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Mike McClellan, and I serve as the Executive Director of Maine Right to Life, an organization committed to upholding the dignity and intrinsic value of every human life. Our mission is to protect life from conception to natural death by working to make abortion, infanticide, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia socially, ethically, and legally unacceptable. At the same time, we actively promote compassionate alternatives and strive to educate and empower individuals from all walks of life to advocate for life at every stage. Our vision is a world where abortion is not only illegal—but unthinkable.

I am here today to express our strong opposition to **LD 1418: An Act to Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care, Including Fertility Treatments and Contraceptives**, sponsored by Senator Nangle of Cumberland. According to its summary, this bill would prohibit the Commissioner of Health and Human Services from adopting any rules that restrict or ban access to reproductive healthcare. In practice, this opens the door to unchecked, unregulated practices that can compromise the safety, quality, and accountability of reproductive health services in Maine. As a constituent of Senator Nangle, I can attest that there has been no groundswell of support in our district calling for sweeping protections for an industry that, in many ways, is failing the very people it claims to serve. This bill appears to offer a blank check to a powerful industry without meaningful oversight. It is deeply concerning that the bill has no co-sponsors—aside from the endorsement of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, it is unclear why my Senator is pursuing it.

Recent studies raise significant concerns about the emotional and psychological toll abortion can take on women. One such study, titled *The Effects of Abortion Decision Rightness and Decision Type on Women's Satisfaction and Mental Health* ([PubMed Link](#)), examined 226 women:

- Only 33% said they actually wanted the abortion.
- 43% said the abortion was inconsistent with their values or preferences.
- 24% stated it was entirely unwanted or coerced.

Most strikingly, **60% said they would have preferred to give birth** if they had received more emotional or financial support.

Another study reports that long-term effects of abortion regret include depression (44%), feelings of loss (31%), shame (27%), and even phobic responses to infants (13%) ([PubMed Link](#)).

After political agendas have been fulfilled and the lobbying ends, we are left with the women who were compelled—whether directly or indirectly—to end the life of their child. These women often suffer in silence.

I urge you to explore the important work being done by Dr. Priscilla Coleman and Kay Lyn Carlson through the **International Institute for Reproductive Loss** (www.iirl.net). Their research and resources offer insight, healing, and validation to women who've experienced reproductive loss—insight that is often ignored in policy discussions.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

Mike McClellan

Executive Director, Maine Right to Life