



**TESTIMONY OF ALICIA REA, ESQ.
LD 1930 – Ought Not to Pass**

An Act Regarding Acts of Violence Committed Against a Pregnant Woman

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
May 19, 2025

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, greetings. My name is Alicia Rea and I am a policy fellow at the ACLU of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, we urge you to oppose LD 1930.

This bill is unnecessary because Maine law already protects pregnant people. In 2005 Maine passed the Motherhood Protection Act, which requires judges, when determining sentences for perpetrators, to assign special weight to the fact that “the victim is a woman that the convicted person knew or had reasonable cause to believe to be in fact pregnant at the time the crime was committed.”¹

In that same legislation, the legislature also created the crime of Elevated Aggravated Assault on a Pregnant Woman. It established a Class A crime, punishable by up to 40 years in prison, for the act of intentionally or knowingly causing serious bodily injury to a person the perpetrator knew or had reason to know was pregnant.² By law, “serious bodily injury” includes injury to the fetus or termination of the pregnancy.³

In cases such as domestic violence that result in the loss of a pregnancy, a person can sue for negligence, assault, battery, or other causes, and the court will take the pregnancy loss into account when awarding damages.

LD 1930 would represent a step toward criminalizing abortion. It is like other “fetal personhood” bills around the country that are championed by opponents of abortion rights to chip away at abortion rights. If the legislature truly wants to protect pregnant persons and their families, it should focus on improving access to health care resources, not criminalizing behavior that can already be prosecuted.

We urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1930.

¹ 17-A M.R.S. §1603(2)(B) (sentencing factor in imprisonment for crime of murder).

² 17-A M.R.S. §208-C.

³ *Id.*