

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

I am James Swan and I live in Waldoboro, in Lincoln County and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 616.

My support of this pieces of legislation, LD 616 (An Act to Protect Healthcare Professionals Providing Reproductive Health Care), sponsored by Representative Amy Kuhn, stems from challenges my sisters, cousins and niece have experienced in securing reproductive healthcare over the years.

I believe healthcare, even specific care for reproductive concerns, should be readily available for everyone, certainly every Mainer. Both bills would protect reproductive healthcare professionals and expand access to abortion care for all individuals.

One in four people who can be pregnant will have an abortion in their lifetime. It is important to remember that abortion is a safe and normal procedure that can be done both in-clinic and with medication.

LD 616 would protect out of state abortion providers from legal repercussions that could result in raised insurance rates, fines, and license revocations. By ensuring that healthcare professionals providing reproductive health care are not penalized for doing their job, LD 616 would protect access to vital healthcare services and ensure that patients have access to the care they need.

It is important to me that we remember reproductive healthcare is not just a women's issue. Trans, nonbinary, and intersex individuals who have a uterus and can become pregnant. They too need access to reproductive healthcare services.

I believe we must come to grips with the reality that a person's ability to access abortions is impacted by their identity. The access of Black, Indigenous, and people of color to preventative care, insurance coverage, sex ed, etc. is disproportionately impacted by medical racism and systemic discrimination. This legislation is an important step toward ensuring that all individuals have access to the care they need, regardless of their identity.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 616.

Sincerely,

James Swan

Waldoboro, Maine 04572