

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
LD 995, HP 0630**

**An Act to Provide Insurance Coverage for a Second Opinion If a Health Care Provider
Recommends an Abortion for Health or Safety Reasons**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. My name is Russell Brimmer, a resident and registered voter from Levant, ME. I come before you today to speak in Support of LD 995, An Act to Provide Insurance Coverage for a Second Opinion If a Health Care Provider Recommends an Abortion for Health or Safety Reasons.

We have heard a lot lately in the debate about a woman's choice on whether to abort the unborn child in her womb. It is unfortunate that these choices can be guided by several factors outside the direct control of the woman making that choice. Having the necessary information is critical to making an informed decision.

It is a common and well-established practice for anyone facing a major health choice to obtain a second medical opinion, with any needed additional testing, before proceeding. Patients deserve to be fully informed about their situation before they make a significant medical decision, especially it involves life or death issues. LD 995 would require that this common practice be extended to cases where a medical provider has recommended an abortion due to the health and safety of an enrollee or a fetus, and it would appropriately place the financial burden on the health insurance carrier.

We all deserve to be as well-informed as possible about the medical decisions we make. LD 995 is a common-sense approach to providing necessary information at the time it is critically needed. It is a reasonable and necessary step in this regard. I encourage you to support LD 995.

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