

LD 995, HP0630 An Act to Provide Insurance Coverage for a Second Opinion If a Health Care Provider Recommends an Abortion for Health or Safety Reasons -

Position: Support

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Stephen A. Spaulding MD, from Scarborough, ME. I come before you today to speak in Support of LD 995.

LD 995 mandates that health insurance providers must cover the cost of a second opinion and any additional testing sought by the patient after their healthcare provider **recommends an abortion due to health or safety concerns for either the patient or her unborn child.** The bill also requires healthcare professionals to inform patients of their right to a second opinion and the availability of health insurance coverage for it. **Obtaining a second opinion is common practice in major health diagnoses,** and it is especially crucial when the lives of both the patient and the fetus are at stake. Moreover, many health insurance policies already provide coverage for second opinions, and this bill would merely **codify that such coverage is available in the case of abortion-related decisions.**

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote **Ought to Pass on LD 995.** Thank you!