

CONCERNED  
WOMEN *for* AMERICA  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Statement by  
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Concerned Women for America of Maine  
For Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee

To Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

Regarding L.D. 811,  
“An Act To Protect the Reproductive Rights and Freedoms of Maine People”

March 25, 2022

Sen. Claxton, Rep. Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I’m Penny Morrell, State Director of Concerned Women for America of Maine, speaking for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee.

Concerned Women for America (CWA) is the largest public policy women’s organization in the nation, with hundreds of thousands of members across the country.

CWA of Maine opposes L.D. 811, “An Act To Protect the Reproductive Rights and Freedoms of Maine People.”

CWA of Maine is very concerned that this bill is a “concept draft,” and because as such, we do not have any bill language to assess and cannot be assured of the desired outcome. Because the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) is currently deliberating a pro-life case that could change the outcome of *Roe v Wade*, we believe this bill is a reaction to that reality.

If the purpose of L.D. 811 is to further secure the right to abortion in Maine; we are completely opposed for these reasons:

When the *Roe v Wade* decision was rendered nearly 50 years ago, the Court’s judgment was strictly based on scientific knowledge in 1973. Back then, there were no personal computers as we know them, no internet, the iPhone had not been invented, the microwave wasn’t even in widespread use. As a nation and a state, we are still living under the abortion policy of that era, ignoring decades of advances, like the ultrasound, which gives us a great [window](#) into the womb. We now know, for example, that babies [feel pain](#) at around 12 weeks. And scientific development is only getting better.

Consider this evidence:

- With advancements in ultrasounds, not only do we know the life inside the womb is a baby, but doctors are able to perform life-saving treatment, even perform surgery, as with the famous cases of babies with spina bifida.
- Babies feel pain at a very early stage. The scientific evidence shows that from 15 weeks onward, “the fetus is extremely sensitive to painful stimuli, and that this fact should be taken into account when performing invasive medical procedures on the fetus. It is necessary to apply adequate analgesia to prevent the suffering of the fetus.”
- According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, a 15-week-old baby:
  - Has eyes and eyelids with a well-formed face,
  - Limbs have developed,
  - The baby has hands and feet with little toes and fingers that have gone so far as to develop nails on them (he or she can make a fist!),
  - The genitals have appeared,
  - Organs are fast developing with the baby’s liver already making red blood cells of its own,
  - And muscle tissue and bones continue to grow and become harder, making it possible to begin to move.

It’s time that Maine catches up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and ends abortion, not solidifying it into state law. It is unjustifiable and indefensible. Instead of this legislature working to maintain the status quo of abortion, it should be working to end this crime against women.

I ask this committee to vote L.D. 811, “ought not to pass.” Thank you.