

Kirby Burns  
Blue Hill  
LD 682

Regarding Legislative Document 682:

Dear 132nd Maine Legislators,

Having garnered skills and abilities to guide the decisions relevant to the health and welfare of your constituents, I commend to you the following opinion:

I am in complete agreement with the necessity to act to amend certain laws regarding abortions in the State of Maine. To repeal and replace the current law with PL2023 and its Section-1-described abortion reporting will add accountability and concise record keeping that is promptly registered.

The provision to provide only medically necessary abortions, in Section 3, cognizant of preserving the life and health of the mother guided by an attending physician is the minimum acceptable envelope of protection to this challenging decision.

Section 2's policy and Section 4's amendment raising the standard to professionally trained and licensed persons only to be enabled to perform abortions is the standard needed to assure safety and health relevant to a woman's private decision to terminate her pregnancy.

The provisions for criminal determination and prosecution in Sections 5 and 6 are appropriate and essential to preserve the integrity of the system providing care to women vulnerable to misrepresentation or manipulation of information.

I would be remiss if I didn't state in this testimony that the issue of abortion is a dual life issue. Serious consideration of the needs of the unborn life, initiated at conception, should bathe the weighing and reflective agonizing of the mother and those assisting her in the vulnerable period of pregnancy. The proposed changes in the law do not go far enough toward the needed "dual-life" considerations but they are a step in the right direction and I do support them as proposed at this time. The work of the legislators creating and guiding these changes is to be commended and supported with positive acceptance of the bill and its provisions.

Psalm 139:13-14 English Standard Version

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you (God), for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

Sincerely,

Kirby Burns, Blue Hill