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March 27, 2025

Senator Anne Carney, Chair
Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: *LDs 253, 682, 886, 887, 975, and 1007*

Greetings Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn,

I am writing today to express my opposition to LDs 253, 682, 886, 887, 975, and 1007. My office has supported numerous efforts to defend reproductive rights on a national level, and these bills would undermine many of those efforts here in Maine.

For nearly a half century, the United States Constitution protected the fundamental right to access abortion care. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the United States Supreme Court reversed long-standing precedent and withdrew this constitutional protection. Fortunately, Maine continues to protect reproductive freedom, but efforts are now underway to chip away at state law protections. Immediately after *Dobbs* was decided, I pledged to do everything within my power as Attorney General to block such efforts, and I write to you now to urge that you reject these bills that serve no valid public health purpose and instead would simply throw up roadblocks to persons seeking access to abortion care.

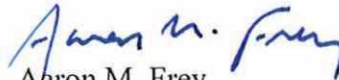
I want to comment specifically on LD 975, which would redefine "person." This change would have far-reaching consequences in many areas of law I suspect were not contemplated here. It would cause confusion in prosecutions across criminal practice, as well as in Juvenile and Tribal Courts where definitions from the Criminal Code are incorporated directly. *See* 15 M.R.S. § 3103, 30 M.R.S. §§ 6209-A(2), 6209-B(2), 6210-C(2); 17-A M.R.S. § 6.

I additionally oppose repealing the crimes of elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person and the domestic violence variant, 17-A M.R.S. §§ 208-C & 208-F (Sections 8-9 of the

bill). Such a repeal minimizes the heinousness of violent conduct committed by an offender who knows or has reason to know the victim is pregnant. For the same reason, I object to removing these crimes from the statutes that require mandatory arrest (Section 18, affecting 17-A M.R.S. § 4114(5)) and that provide grounds for a court to issue a protective order (Section 3, affecting 15 M.R.S. § 321). The proposal to remove these same crimes from the statutes that enhance the sentencing classification of future criminal conduct in Sections 6-7 and 10-17 is similarly short-sighted and would eliminate them as a basis for enhanced sentencing even if the convictions had been finalized before the effective date of this legislation.

Please continue Maine's strong and proud tradition of protecting the reproductive rights of our citizens and vote Ought Not to Pass on LD LDs 253, 682, 886, 887, 975, and 1007. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Aaron M. Frey
Attorney General