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LD 253

I strongly oppose LD 253 – An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services.

This bill is a direct threat to healthcare equity in our state. Abortion is a legal and constitutionally protected right in Maine, and that right must not be reserved only for those who can afford it. By blocking MaineCare coverage for abortion, LD 253 would create a two-tiered healthcare system—where people with private insurance can access full reproductive care, while those with lower incomes, who rely on MaineCare, are denied the same medical options.

This isn't just about access—it's about justice. The individuals most impacted by this bill are those already facing the steepest barriers to care: low-income Mainers, rural residents, and disproportionately, women of color. These same groups already experience the worst maternal health outcomes in our healthcare system. Restricting access to abortion services will only widen these disparities and cause real harm to people and families across our state.

Furthermore, the notion that “life-threatening” exceptions provide adequate safeguards is dangerously misleading. Medical emergencies, like ectopic pregnancies, cannot wait for legal review or bureaucratic approval. Leaving the definition of “life-threatening” vague puts providers in an impossible position and patients at serious risk. In real clinical situations, delays can mean permanent injury or death.

Healthcare decisions should be made between a patient and their doctor—not politicians. MaineCare exists to ensure that all Mainers, regardless of income, have access to essential, evidence-based healthcare. Abortion is healthcare. LD 253 would undermine that principle and compromise the health and rights of thousands of Mainers.

I urge legislators to reject this bill and stand up for equal access, reproductive freedom, and the basic dignity of every person in Maine.

Lindsay Gardner, Bethel, ME