

Lindsay Gardner
Bethel, ME
LD 886

I strongly oppose LD 886 – An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions.

As someone living in rural Maine, I know firsthand how hard it can be to access timely healthcare. We often have to travel hours to see a doctor, and we don't always have nearby clinics or OB/GYNs. LD 886 would make that even harder by banning access to safe, effective medication abortion via telehealth or online pharmacies. It's not just unnecessary—it's harmful.

Medication abortion is safe. It's supported by decades of medical research and is recommended by leading health organizations. For many Mainers, especially those of us in rural communities, this is one of the only accessible options. Requiring in-person visits for a medication that is proven to be safe unnecessarily delays care and puts up yet another barrier between people and the health services they need.

This bill doesn't make anyone safer. What it does is limit access, increase travel time and costs, and create fear—especially when it threatens providers with criminal penalties and demands private health data that could compromise patient confidentiality.

Keeping medication abortion legal and accessible keeps Mainers safe and healthy. It allows people to make private medical decisions in consultation with their doctor, not with politicians. If we want to improve health outcomes in this state, especially for people in rural and underserved areas, we need more access to care, not less.

LD 886 is a step backward. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and stand up for the rights, privacy, and health of all Mainers—no matter where they live.

Lindsay Gardner, Bethel, ME