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LD 887

I strongly oppose LD 887.

As someone living in a rural part of Maine, I can tell you that access to basic healthcare—especially reproductive care—is already a serious challenge. This bill would make that worse by banning the use of telehealth for medication abortion and requiring a provider to be physically present. That might sound simple on paper, but for people like me, it means hours of travel, lost wages, child care costs, and possibly not being able to get care at all.

Medication abortion is safe, effective, and widely used, and telemedicine has made it accessible to people who live far from clinics or doctors. It's one of the only ways people in rural areas can get timely care, especially in early pregnancy. Forcing patients to have an in-person visit is not about safety—it's about restricting access.

LD 887 would also criminalize healthcare providers for using telemedicine, even when they are acting in the best interest of their patients. That's not how we support public health in this state.

The part of this bill that targets manufacturers for the disposal of medication abortion drugs feels more like a political tactic than a meaningful environmental protection policy. If we're serious about pharmaceutical waste, then we should be looking at all medications, not just singling out abortion care.

At its core, this bill is about making it harder for people to get the care they need—especially those of us who already face barriers because of where we live. I don't want politicians inserting themselves between me and my doctor. I want to be able to make medical decisions safely and privately, with the support of trained professionals, not under the threat of outdated and unnecessary restrictions.

Please reject LD 887. Let's keep Maine a place where people can access care with dignity, privacy, and equality—no matter their zip code.

Lindsay Gardner, Bethel, ME