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LD 887

I am a family medicine physician who both trained in Maine and has been working in Maine since I became board certified and independent. I did additional training in providing abortion care during my medical residency. LD 887, An Act to Make Manufacturers Responsible for Proper Disposal of Abortion Drugs and Require a Health Care Provider to Be Physically Present During a Chemical Abortion, is a shameful attempt to limit abortion care by requiring that a health care provider be physically present for a medical abortion. The provision of medical abortion is a medical treatment that uses a medication to induce the opening of the cervix so that the tissue products are shed. This shedding of the uterine lining is the same as what occurs during a miscarriage. A person undergoing this experience should be able to be comfortable, in their own environment, as they see fit. This process does not require any health care provider to be physically present. In addition, the medications used for a medical abortion are used to make certain cervical procedures and intrauterine birth control more comfortable to complete. Bills such as this are not only attempting to limit medication abortions under cover of adding "safety" measures that are not medically necessary nor beneficial to the person undergoing a medical abortion. This type of bill is also aimed at incidentally limiting what medical care can be provided to a wider range of patients and sever the unique relationship between a medical provider and their patient.