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LD 682

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. I find it shameful that LD 682 has made it to this committee for review. Reflecting on my training and my education, I can think of no reason that the state needs to track the age, race, marital status or education level of a person who undergoes abortion. Additionally, while abortion services are not routinely chosen after 20 weeks of estimated gestational age, there are medical and practical reasons that someone may choose to undergo abortion after 20 weeks of estimated gestational age and it is crucial that abortion remain a medical procedure between a trained medical provider and the person who desires abortion. It is ridiculous that abortion care continues to be considered outside of the usual counseling, consent, and provision of care that every other medical treatment plan and procedure is subject to. To criminalize these services is to ignore standard medical care and to presume for an individual what is medically best for them.

I am urging this committee to determine this bill ought not to pass.