

Dear Representative Abigail Griffin and Representative Michael Lemelin,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to LD975/**Bill HP635**, which seeks to repeal laws protecting abortion access and criminalize essential healthcare in Maine. This legislation is a dangerous overreach that would inflict severe harm on women, families, and medical providers, and I urge you to reject it outright. Below are the critical flaws and consequences of this bill:

Why Bill HP635 Must Be Stopped:

1. It Criminalizes Essential Healthcare

- The bill imposes criminal penalties for abortion, treating patients and doctors as criminals for accessing or providing basic medical care. This will force women into unsafe situations, particularly victims of rape, incest, or domestic violence.

2. It Ignores Medical Reality

- By defining a "human being" from the moment of conception, the bill disregards medical science and the complexities of pregnancy. This opens the door to prosecuting miscarriage or pregnancy complications as crimes.

3. It Targets Vulnerable Mainers

- Low-income women, rural communities, and marginalized groups—who already face systemic barriers to healthcare—will bear the brunt of this bill. Wealthier individuals will travel for care, while others risk their lives.
- **This bill will orphan children and devastate families.** Research shows that 60% of people seeking abortions in the U.S. are already mothers. When life-threatening pregnancy complications arise—such as ectopic pregnancies or septic miscarriages—denying care doesn't just endanger the pregnant person; it leaves surviving children without caregivers and partners without spouses. Maine's families deserve better than this cruelty.

4. It Punishes Victims

- The bill includes no meaningful exceptions for rape, incest, or life-threatening pregnancies, effectively punishing survivors and those facing medical crises.

5. It Undermines Medical Professionals

- Doctors could face prosecution for providing standard care, creating a climate of fear that will deter healthcare providers from practicing in Maine and worsen our state's healthcare shortages.

6. It Invades Privacy

- Mandatory reporting of miscarriages (Section 26) turns deeply personal medical experiences into state surveillance, risking misuse of sensitive health data.

7. It's Unconstitutional and Wasteful

- Similar laws have been struck down nationwide. This bill will trigger expensive lawsuits, wasting taxpayer money to defend an indefensible attack on rights.

The Real Motive Behind This Bill

This legislation is not about "protecting life"—it's about controlling women's bodies and imposing a narrow ideological agenda. If lawmakers truly cared about reducing abortions, they would support policies like comprehensive sex education, contraception access, and economic support for families. Instead, this bill pushes cruelty disguised as morality.

Demand for Accountability

I call on you to withdraw this harmful bill immediately. If you proceed, I expect a detailed response explaining why you believe the state should have the power to force pregnancy on its citizens, regardless of their circumstances.

Sincerely,

Mark Pelusi

Bradley, Maine