

Subject: S.P. 297/LD 682 Harms Mainers—Withdraw This Dangerous Bill

Dear Senator Haggan, Representative Smith, and Cosponsors (Senators Bernard, Guerin, Harrington; Representatives Carlow, Griffin, Haggan, Paul, Quint):

I am writing in vehement opposition to **S.P. 297/LD 682**, which would impose intrusive reporting requirements on abortion patients, restrict life-saving care after viability, and reinstate criminal penalties for healthcare providers. This bill is a blatant violation of medical privacy, constitutional rights, and the well-being of your constituents. Here's how it will harm Mainers:

1. It Violates Medical Privacy

- **Section 1** forces patients to disclose **race, marital status, and education level** to the state—data easily weaponized to target vulnerable communities (e.g., women of color, low-income Mainers).
 - *Example:* A domestic violence survivor's marital status could be used to identify her if data is leaked.
 - **Source:** Maine ACLU warns this mirrors tactics used in anti-abortion states to harass patients (*2024 Report*).

2. It Bans Life-Saving Abortions

- **Section 3** replaces physician judgment with vague "medical necessity" standards for post-viability abortions, endangering patients with:
 - **Severe fetal anomalies** (e.g., anencephaly) that cause excruciating short-term suffering but don't meet the arbitrary "3-month death" rule.
 - **Emergent health risks** (e.g., preeclampsia at 24 weeks), where delays for legal review could be fatal.
 - **Source:** Maine Medical Association states this will "tie doctors' hands during emergencies" (*March 2025 letter*).

3. It Criminalizes Healthcare Providers

- **Sections 5–6** reinstate **Class C/D felonies** for providers, including:

- Nurse practitioners performing early abortions (currently legal under Maine law).
- Physicians acting to save a patient's life if the state later disputes "necessity."
- **Impact:** Rural areas like **Aroostook County (Sen. Bernard's district)** already face OB-GYN shortages. This will worsen the crisis.

District-Specific Harms

- **Sen. Haggan (Penobscot):** Northern Light Health in Bangor handles **85% of post-viability cases** in your district. This bill will force them to turn away patients or risk prosecution.
- **Rep. Paul (Winterport):** Your Waldo County constituents have **no labor/delivery hospitals**. Delays in care will mean more preventable deaths.
- **Rep. Griffin (Levant):** After cosponsoring **HP 635's total ban**, this is another attack on your district's 1,200+ MaineCare patients needing reproductive care (*Maine DHHS, 2024*).

Demand for Accountability

Cite one constitutional scholar who believes forcing patients to disclose marital status to the state is legal. Name one medical group that supports jailing doctors for post-viability abortions. If you cannot, withdraw this bill immediately.

Sincerely,
Mark Pelusi

Bradley, Maine