

Subject: H.P. 572/LD 886 Endangers Mainers—Withdraw This Harmful Bill

Dear Representative Griffin and Cosponsors (Representatives Collins, Gifford, Javner, Mason, Paul, Schmersal-Burgess, and Thorne):

I am writing in strong opposition to **H.P. 572/LD 886**, which imposes medically unnecessary and politically motivated restrictions on medication abortion—a safe, FDA-approved method used in **over half of Maine’s abortions**. This bill is dangerous, unconstitutional, and ignores the realities of rural healthcare access. Here’s why it must be rejected:

1. It Bans Telemedicine for Medication Abortion

- **Section 2(B)** forces patients to meet providers **in person**, even though:
 - The **FDA and AMA** confirm telemedicine for medication abortion is safe.
 - Rural Mainers (e.g., **Aroostook County**) often live **hours** from the nearest clinic.
 - **Impact:** This will delay care, forcing some into riskier second-trimester procedures.

2. It Pushes Medically Debunked “Abortion Reversal” Myths

- **Section 2(C)(4)** requires providers to lie about “reversing” medication abortion—a **dangerous, unscientific claim** rejected by:
 - The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)**.
 - The **Maine Medical Association** (calls this “unethical”).
 - **Fact:** The only “reversal” protocol (high-dose progesterone) has **no credible evidence** and risks hemorrhage.

3. It Criminalizes Online Prescriptions

- **Section 2(A)** bans obtaining pills online, even from licensed providers like **Aid Access**—a lifeline for:
 - Domestic violence survivors hiding pregnancies.
 - Low-income Mainers who can’t take time off work for multiple appointments.

District-Specific Harms

- **Rep. Paul (Winterport):** Your district has **no abortion providers**. This bill traps your constituents between unpaid time off work or unsafe options.

- **Rep. Javner (Chester):** 1 in 4 women in your district **live below the poverty line** (*U.S. Census*). They can't afford extra trips to Bangor.
- **Rep. Griffin (Levant):** After cosponsoring **HP 635's total ban**, this is another attack on your constituents' rights.

Demand for Accountability

Cite one reputable medical organization that supports forcing providers to lie about 'abortion reversal.' Name one constitutional scholar who believes banning telemedicine doesn't violate privacy rights. If you cannot, withdraw this bill immediately.

Sincerely,
Mark Pelusi
Bradley, Maine