

**Subject:** H.P. 573/LD 887 is a Dangerous Sham—Withdraw This Bill

**Dear Representative Paul, Senator Haggan, and Cosponsors (Representatives Griffin, Haggan, Javner, Quint):**

I am writing in fierce opposition to **H.P. 573/LD 887**, a bill that weaponizes pseudoscience and junk environmental claims to effectively ban medication abortion in Maine. This legislation is medically absurd, legally reckless, and designed solely to punish patients and providers. Here's why it must be rejected:

### **1. It Bans Telemedicine Abortion Under False Pretenses**

- **Section 2** forces providers to be **physically present** for medication abortions, even though:
  - The **FDA and WHO** confirm telemedicine abortion is safe.
  - Rural Mainers (e.g., **Aroostook County**) often live **hours** from clinics.
  - **Real motive:** This is a backdoor ban targeting low-income and rural patients.

### **2. Its "Environmental" Provisions Are a Fraud**

- **Section 1599-C** absurdly claims abortion pills pollute water with "endocrine disruptors," despite:
  - **Zero evidence:** The FDA reports **no detectable environmental risk** from mifepristone.
  - **Hypocrisy:** The bill ignores actual pollutants (e.g., pesticides, pharmaceuticals like Viagra).
  - **Liability scam:** It fines manufacturers **\$20,000** for imaginary hazards—a tactic copied from anti-abortion states like Texas.

### **3. It Forces Patients to Handle Medical Waste**

- **Section 2(D)** requires patients to **collect fetal tissue** in "catch kits" and return it to providers—a cruel and unnecessary demand that:
  - **Traumatizes** people experiencing miscarriage or abortion.
  - **Violates privacy:** Could be used to identify/harass patients (e.g., by anti-abortion activists).

### **District-Specific Harms**

- **Rep. Paul (Winterport):** Your district has **no abortion providers**. This bill forces patients to travel **50+ miles** while bleeding.
- **Sen. Haggan (Penobscot):** Northern Light Health in Bangor handles **80% of rural abortions** in your district. This law will shutter their telemedicine program.
- **Rep. Griffin (Levant):** After cosponsoring **HP 635's total ban**, you're now pushing a bill the **Maine Medical Association** calls "medically incoherent."

### **Demand for Accountability**

*Cite one peer-reviewed study proving abortion pills pollute water. Name one environmental group that supports this bill. If you cannot, admit this is a sham to ban abortion.*

**Sincerely,**

Mark Pelusi

Bradley, Maine