

Sophia Richter
Kittery
LD 886

Sophia Richter and Connor Buckley
Kittery, ME
March 28, 2025

LD 886 An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions
I testify against this bill

I support the use of abortion medication because it is a safe and highly effective means of ending early-term abortions and because it promotes the individual's access to and control over the effectiveness and privacy of their medical care. Abortion medication is widely used and restrictions to it would disproportionately impact low-income people and individuals in rural communities who already face barriers to access to medical care. Maine is home to a large number of these individuals and thus, this bill would have a major impact on our neighbors. I am concerned by the bill's provision to require a licensed health care professional to be present when using these abortion medications because it would serve to dissuade people from seeking early-term abortions. Any legislation that reduces early-term care is directly going to contribute to the need for later-term abortive care or (a larger concern) is going to effectively dissuade people from getting medically safe abortions altogether. While I believe that this is the goal of a bill such as this, I do not support its underlying intent no its stated intent. Additionally, I do not support a bill that mandates how medical professionals communicate to their patients. One example in this bill that I am deeply concerned by is the provision that health care professionals are required to "inform the patient of any chemical agent, drug or other means by which the medication abortion may be reversed." Abortion reversals are not scientifically supported or medically viable. Such avenues are opposed by leading medical organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), the Society of Family Planning, and the American College for Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). If this bill is passed, it would force trained healthcare professionals to go against scientifically-supported advice, effectively forcing them to lie to their patients and spread misinformation. In so many ways, we live in an age where misinformation is politicized to erode trust between citizens and our scientific community. This bill would feed into the overall climate of distrust. Importantly, it would directly erode the trust between healthcare providers and their patients.