

LD 886 An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions

LD 887 An Act to Make Manufacturers Responsible for Proper Disposal of Abortion Drugs and Require a Health Care Provider to be Physically Present During a Chemical Abortion

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Ruggiero. I live in Cape Elizabeth. I urge you not to pass an act to regulate medication abortions.

It is 2025. Online purchasing is the norm. If passed this bill would intentionally keep an industry that is overburdened, underfunded, and experience staffing shortages from alleviating these issues using modern, nay standard, means. Payers and providers are looking to introduce solutions and develop technologies that offer relief. Automations, AI, tele-health... the digital world is coming to the aid of the healthcare industry. There are even multiple online pharmacies. So, to require that a patient seeking an abortion must do so in person is deliberately creating hardships, especially when abortion medications such as Mifepristone have been proven to be some of the safest drugs on the market, even safer than Viagra. Forcing one type of patient to go through extra hoops in a not so veiled effort to make the process as arduous as possible isn't fair or equitable particularly when the only people it serves are people who have nothing to do with the pregnancy or abortion taking place. Stipulate the acquisition of Viagra requires reporting to a committee the state of having erectile dysfunction, an examination, counseling to ensure an erection is truly necessary, and to drive in person each time the medication is to be administered. How many ED patients would persevere with that level of scrutiny. Some drugs must be administered in the presence of medical professionals, but the goal is to ensure proper administration and safety. That is clearly not the goal of this bill. This bill aims to add hurdles and shame those who seek an abortion all while adding undue hardships to the healthcare system.

I urge you, please do not vote to pass LD 886 or 887. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Ruggiero
Cape Elizabeth
LD 887

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