

March 26, 2025

To: Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Chairs: Senator Anne Carney and Representative Amy Kuhn

RE: March 28, 2025 Hearing on 7 anti-Reproductive Health Care Rights Bills

Dear Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

Please accept this letter from very concerned citizens from eastern and southern Maine over these alarming and intrusive bills on women's health care rights. Maine has appropriately and effectively provided and protected reproductive health care rights for its citizens. The bills, individually and in total, sabotage women's healthcare rights in Maine and represent a misguided strategy by the sponsors to undermine women's rights to privacy, self-determination, life, and well-being. *Without exception, each bill moves Maine a step closer to the unacceptable reality for women that we now see in Iowa, Missouri, Texas, Alabama, and other states causing physical and emotional harm, including death and loss of the ability to have more wanted children.* We have no interest in becoming the next state to embrace Project 2025's draconian beliefs about women's healthcare rights and personal freedoms for which these seven bills open the door.

We are submitting this testimony requesting that the Committee vote **Ought Not To Pass** on LDs 253, 682, 886, 887, 975, 1007, and 1154 for the following reasons.

LD 253 treats low-income women as second-class citizens undeserving of support for basic health care.

LD 682 implies that the State of Maine and its legislators are more knowledgeable about fetal viability than licensed neonatal and obstetric physicians, moves decisions about terminating non-viable pregnancies into the murky decision-making territory called "reasonable certainty"; sets dangerous and unproven assumptions about life expectancy post-birth of compromised babies; and then puts the physicians responsible for making a decision with "reasonable certainty" at risk for criminal penalties.

LD 886 eliminates the online purchase of a safe and approved drug, requires unrealistic in-person monitoring by a health care professional for a procedure that is carried out in the privacy of a person's home, puts health care professionals inappropriately in the role of providing "spiritual guidance", and forces physicians to provide information about reversing a medication abortion after it is underway which has no evidence to support the claim.

LD 887 requires an insulting and invasive set of unnecessary procedures when a woman decides to use a medication to terminate her pregnancy, and then criminalizes the health care provider for failing to adhere to a process that is not aligned with how and where medication abortions actually take place.

LD 975 eliminates the distinction between a fetus and a human being and codifies the belief that legal personhood begins at conception based on certain legislators' religious beliefs. By enacting this bill, any action that prevents a pregnancy from coming to term can be classified as murder, including any contraceptive method, partner/spousal abuse that results in harm to a fetus, pre-viability miscarriages, and any necessary post-viability abortion to save the mother's life. The unintended consequences of this bill should not be underestimated.

LD 1007 claims that a chemical abortion can be reversed which is not substantiated by any reputable scientific medical studies or any established medical procedures.

LD 1154 there is no need to codify a standard of care that already exists and then criminalize health professionals for the advice and counsel they are already providing.

For the reasons highlighted above, we request that the Committee vote **Ought Not To Pass** on LDs 253, 682, 886, 887, 975, 1007, and 1154.

Sincerely,

Judy East (Calais)

Anne Perry (Calais)

Ashley Hinson (Calais)

Lauren Simpson (Calais)

Sarah Strickland (Robbinston)

Paul R. Strickland (Robbinston)

Louise Beaulieu (Robbinston)

Jane Honeck CPA (Robbinston)

Paula Horvath (Eastport)

David Brass (Eastport)

Evangeline Charette (Eastport)

Jenie M. Smith M.D. (Eastport)

Kristin McKinlay (Eastport)

Sharon Dean (East Machias)

Harper Dean (East Machias)

Julie Jacob (East Machias)

Leslie Mulligan (Machias)

Laura Lander (Machias)

Inez lombardo (Machias)

Ross Pedersen (Machias)

Katie Kurz (Machiasport)

Sarah Davis (Jonesport)

Lisa Marin (Jonesport)

Jennifer Reynolds (Jonesport)

Betty Kelley (Jonesport)

Nancy Beal (Beals)

Donna Ouellet (Addison)

Andrew Steinharter (Addison)

Jacquelyn Lowe (Whiting)
Bob Spencer (Whiting)
Katie MacGregor (Whiting)
Judith Patterson (Whiting)
Vernon Patterson (Whiting)
Patricia Mallar (Whiting)
Alan Furth (Whiting)

Catherine Adelman (Pembroke)
Thomas Adelman (Pembroke)

Beth Clifford (Perry)
Jeanne Guisinger (Perry)
Nancy Asante (Perry)

Melissa Lee (Lubec)
Dan Halter (Lubec)
Stephanie Higgins (Lubec)
Victoria Woshner (Lubec)
Martha Howell (Lubec)
Margaret Grubel (Lubec)
Jerry Grubel (Lubec)
Mary Ellen Stacy (Lubec)
Wayne Barnard (Lubec)
Pete Colman (Lubec)

Kyle Koch (Edmunds)
Janet Hough (Edmunds)

Penny Guisinger (Trescott)
Heidi Herzberger (Trescott Twp.)

Lisa Faith (Milbridge)
Rachel Faith (Milbridge)

Sherrie Downing (Sullivan)
Kay M. Levine (Sullivan)

MarySeward (Gouldsboro)
Roger Bowen (Gouldsboro)
Patricia Fiske (Gouldsboro)

Susan Cook (Portland)
Cornelia Walworth (Portland)
Lyn Mikel Brown (Portland)
Mark Tappan (Portland)
Lily King (Portland)
Eleanor Goldberg (Portland)
Linda Small (Portland)
Janice Levine Igoe (Portland, Biddeford)
Kimberly Simmons (Portland, Porter)
Rachel Stettler (South Portland)

Robert Collins (Kennebunkport)
Kathleen Adams (Kennebunkport)

Stephanie Payson (China)
John Soifer (South China)
Deborah Soifer (South China)
Zoe Mason (South China)

Kelly Payson-Roopchand (Somerville)
Anil Roopchand (Somerville)
Christopher Johnson (Somerville)
Valarie Johnson (Somerville)
Amanda Affleck (Somerville)

Laura Nuffer (Waterville)
Ankeney Weitz (Waterville)
Mary Beth Mills (Waterville)
Dana Jenkins (Waterville)
Karen Heck (Waterville}

Barbara Aras (Tenants Harbor)
Arline Slote Davis (Tenants Harbor)

Carilynn Balbo (Palermo)
Campbell Watts (Palermo)

Sheila Corbett (Castine)
William Corbett (Castine)
Julie Bohan (Castine)
Daniel Leader (Castine)

Laurie Fogelman (Franklin)
Dawn R Carter (Franklin)

Monica Czerniawski (Franklin)

Alice Noyes (Franklin)

Renata Moise RN, MSN, CNM (Hancock)

Phil Bailey (Hancock)

Sharon Catus (Hancock)

Charleyne Gilbert (Bucksport)

Pamela Pinault (Bucksport)

Gail Rowe (Cape Elizabeth)

Suzanne Van Wye (Cape Elizabeth)

Richard Barnes (Stonington, Cape Elizabeth)

Alaine Peaslee-Hinshaw (Vanceboro)

Christopher Hinshaw (Vanceboro)

Christine Kuhni WHNP (Milbridge)

Janie Snider (Milbridge)

Peter Knowles (Charlotte)

Brenda Blackstone (Charlotte)

Cynthia Donaldson (Lamoine)

Lee K. Cline (Lamoine)

Diane Nicholls (Lamoine)

Anne LaBossiere (Lamoine)

Hilly Crary (Sorrento)

Martha McDonald (Sorrento)

Katharine F. Wellman (Sorrento)

Anna Durand (Hulls Cove)

Janice Strout (Hulls Cove)

Kathleen Kaiser (Deer Isle)

Stuart Kestenbaum (Deer Isle)

William Anderson (Deer Isle)

Charles Bye (Deer Isle)

Marcia Myers (Deer Isle)

Eliza Harrison (Deer Isle)

Charles Putnam (Deer Isle)

Barbara Putnam (Deer Isle)

Katy Rinehart (Deer Isle)

Eleanor Rowan (Deer Isle)
Darwin K. Davidson (Deer Isle)
Susan Webster (Deer Isle)
Judy Rader (Deer Isle)
Ron Stegall (Deer Isle)
Jacqueline Davidson (Deer Isle)
Mary Ann O'Rourke (Deer Isle)

John S. O'Brien (Bar Harbor)
Francis Cole (Bar Harbor)
Robert Hammond (Bar Harbor)
Lisa Bradley (Bar Harbor)
Carrie Jones (Bar Harbor)
Nancy Glista (Bar Harbor)
Amanda Kendall (Bar Harbor)
Patricia Cantwell (Bar Harbor)
Alan Keene (Bar Harbor)
Marsha Fuller (Bar Harbor)
Deborah Kiley (Bar Harbor)

Noelle Humphrey (Steuben)
David Humphrey (Steuben)

Kathleen Stark (Ellsworth)
Bernice Fallon (Ellsworth)
Sandra McWhirter (Ellsworth)
Judith Swiss Lyles (Ellsworth)

Suzanne Uhl-Melanson (Waterville)
Beth Schiller (Waterville)

Natasha Mayers (Whitefield)
Louisa Gorrill (Whitefield)

Valerie Whitmer-Hammond (Gouldsboro)
Jana Prosser (Gouldsboro)
Robert Hammond (Gouldsboro)
Heather Smolenski (Gouldsboro)

Wendy Alpaugh (Stonington)
Caroyn Friedell (Stonington)

Ann Hoffner (Sorrento)
Tom Bailey (Sorrento)

Gianna Settin (Sorrento)

Mike McMillen (Brooksville)

Abbie McMillen (Brooksville)

Elizabeth Bachelder (North Yarmouth)

Debra Spark (North Yarmouth)

Wayne Hagenbuch (Steuben)

Kelly Hagenbuch (Steuben)

Sandra Joy (Orono)

Patricia Reed (Orono)

Virginia Flanagan {Head Tide, Alna}

Gerald Flanagan (Alna)

Harriet Heath (Winter Harbor)

Debra Orado (Castine)

Sarah Hale (Bath)

Vivian Page (Cumberland)

Daria Cullen (Wells)

Annette Coderre-Proulx (Exeter)

Lydia Moland (Freeport)

Diane Fitzgerald (Bridgton)

Mazie Hough

Bambi Jones (Whitefield)

Christopher Marshall (Montville)

Carol Plummer (Corinth)

Melanie Dias (Veazie)

John Yasenchak (Bangor)

Victoria Scott (Rockland)

Wendilee Heath (O'Brien)

Arline Slote Davis (Tenants Harbor)

Jill Gordon (Fairfield)

Andrea Breau (Lewiston)

Carol A Godfrey (Augusta)

Karen Foley (Skowhegan)

Leslie Sturzenberger (Bradley)

Susan Dowley (Hope)

Erin Curren (Westbrook)

Maura McCampbell (Swanville)

Sarah Strickland
Robbinston
LD 253

Dear Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,
The attached testimony is for all 7 bills and is signed by 204 citizens from 74 Maine towns. Thank you for entering this testimony for each of the bills that will be heard on March 28th.
Sincerely,
Sarah Strickland