Sara Gagné-Holmes Commissioner



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Senator Carney, Chair Representative Kuhn, Chair Members, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary 100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1007 – An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide information in opposition to LD 1007, *An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion*.

LD 1007 requires a health care professional to provide a patient who is opting for a medication abortion, with specific information about possible reversal of the effects of medication used for a non-surgical abortion and the effects on maternal or child health including birth defects. Further, the bill prescribes the script to be delivered by the health care professional about the potential to reverse the effects of the abortion. Additionally, the bill requires publicly accessible webpages that include information on the potential ability of qualified health care professionals to reverse the effects of a medication abortion and an *abortion pill reversal helpline* for those seeking assistance in locating a health care professional who can aid in the reversal of an abortion, and that the Department updates the website at least annually.

The Maine CDC opposes this bill because, according to the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology (ACOG), there is no effective, FDA approved abortion pill reversal method. Furthermore, no studies have been conducted that have been Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved that show the effectiveness of the medication that is claimed to reverse the effects of mifepristone.

Further, 'reversal treatment' lacks rigorous scientific evidence of safety and effectiveness. In line with scientific organizations and medical professionals expressing concerns about the lack of scientific basis and potential risks, Maine CDC does not support this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

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Maine Center for Disease Control Maine Department of Health and Human Services