



**Maine Medical  
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC  
ASSOCIATION**

**IN OPPOSITION TO**

[LD 682](#) - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions; [LD 1007](#) - An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion; [LD 975](#) - An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion; [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; [LD 886](#) - An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions; [LD 1154](#) - An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice; and [LD 253](#) - An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Room 438, State House, Augusta, Maine  
Friday, March 6, 2025

Good Morning, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Austin Vaughan, and I am a medical student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

Because we believe in protecting the patient-physician relationship, we are testifying in opposition to [LD 682](#) - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions; [LD 1007](#) - An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion; [LD 975](#) - An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion; [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; [LD 886](#) - An Act

to Regulate Medication Abortions; [LD 253](#) - An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services; and [LD 1154](#) - An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice.

Clinicians need to know that Maine is a state where they are welcome and empowered to practice their profession based on evidence-based medical science and guided only by patient autonomy and their clinical judgment, not politics. Optimal reproductive health occurs when patients and their licensed health professionals can choose the course of treatment through shared decision-making that is fully informed by up-to-date clinical standards. Physicians, especially our OB/GYN colleagues, spend thousands of hours acquiring and maintaining the necessary skills to determine what is medically appropriate for each patient. The people of Maine deserve nothing less.

Maine has already considered laws around abortion, and Maine has created a framework for patients and their healthcare clinicians to be trusted to arrive at the right healthcare decision for each person.

As a future pediatrician who just matched into residency along with over 200 other medical students in Maine, I can tell you firsthand that real conversations were had - and will continue to be had - regarding the protection of the patient-physician relationship when deciding where we would like to train. Any legislation jeopardizing Maine's current status as a leader in protecting reproductive healthcare could potentially impact its ability to attract the future doctors that it desperately needs and, more importantly, could be detrimental to the health and well-being of Mainers across the state who deserve the right to make their own choices.

These bills attempt to legislate medicine, and we urge this committee to vote ought not to pass. Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Austin Vaughan