



March 27, 2025

Re: LD 253, An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services

To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee

The Maine Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (MC-FFRF) writes to provide testimony AGAINST LD 253, An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services. This would repeal existing law and, in addition to the title, the act would also remove the requirement that the State of Maine pay when the abortion services are not covered by Medicaid.

LD 253 would deny low-income individuals healthcare options which are available to higher-income individuals. It would be a devastating decision for the people in our state who rely on MaineCare for access to medical services and care. LD 253 would disproportionately affect marginalized groups and undermine fairness and equity in our healthcare system.

MaineCare is vital for low-income individuals, offering access to a range of medical services that many such people would otherwise be unable to afford. Denying MaineCare coverage for abortion services would force those who are most vulnerable into an impossible choice. One is to be forced into carrying an unwanted pregnancy to term, violating their reproductive rights and placing an undue strain on their health, well-being, and quality of life.

The other path is to seek dangerous, unsafe alternatives. When abortion services are restricted or made less accessible, it does not stop abortions from occurring; it only makes them more dangerous. Historically, when safe, legal abortion access is denied, individuals often turn to unsafe, unregulated alternatives, risking their health and lives. Repealing MaineCare coverage for abortion services will push individuals to seek unsafe procedures, which can have long-term health consequences and even result in death.

Repealing MaineCare coverage for abortions would disproportionately affect marginalized groups, who already face significant barriers to accessing healthcare, and would widen the disparities in our healthcare system.

Access to safe, legal abortions is also a public health issue. The American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and other professional health organizations all support access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion. They recognize that abortion care is a safe medical procedure that must remain accessible for the well-being of individuals and the broader public.

---

Maine Chapter, Freedom From Religion Foundation  
PO Box 161  
Vassalboro, ME 04989-0161

President.RV@ffrfmaine.org  
phone: 207-370-8813  
www.ffrfmaine.org



Instead of repealing MaineCare coverage for abortions, policymakers should be focused on improving access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare for all individuals, regardless of their income. This includes not only access to abortion services but also access to contraception, prenatal care, and family planning services. Supporting comprehensive reproductive healthcare ensures that individuals have the tools and support they need to make informed decisions about their health and families.

Healthcare is a basic human right, and should not be subject to political agendas that seek to restrict access based on personal beliefs. People should not have to choose between their health and their financial well-being. LD 253 is a step backward for the basic rights of individuals. We urge a vote of Ought Not To Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Ray Vensel, President