

Kelin Welborn
Cape Elizabeth
LD 253

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services. This legislation seeks to eliminate critical health care coverage for some of Maine's most vulnerable residents, undermining reproductive rights and disproportionately impacting low-income individuals.

Abortion is a fundamental component of comprehensive reproductive health care. For those who rely on MaineCare, restricting coverage creates unnecessary barriers to accessing essential medical care. Every person, regardless of their financial situation, should have the autonomy to make decisions about their own body and reproductive health without government interference.

Denying abortion coverage to individuals on MaineCare exacerbates health disparities and further entrenches systemic inequities. Many people seeking abortions are already navigating financial hardships, and removing coverage only intensifies these challenges. This act would disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including people of color, rural residents, and those with limited access to health care services.

Furthermore, comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, is widely supported by leading medical organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association. Evidence consistently shows that access to abortion improves both individual and public health outcomes.

I urge you to reject this harmful legislation and stand in support of equitable healthcare access for all Mainers. Protecting MaineCare coverage for abortion services is a matter of reproductive freedom, dignity, and justice.

Thank you for your consideration and do not give space in our democracy to go back to a time when women died and did not have control over their bodies in this State.

Kelin Welborn