

Michelle Zagardo
Bethel
LD 886

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee, My name is Michelle Zagardo and I am a constituent from Bethel. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HP 572, a bill that would require in-person supervision from a licensed healthcare professional for an abortion. This legislation is not only impractical but also dangerously out of touch with the realities of reproductive healthcare and miscarriage management. Medication abortion, including the use of drugs like mifepristone and misoprostol, is a safe, well-established medical practice supported by decades of research and the guidance of major medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. By requiring in-person supervision, HP 572 creates unnecessary barriers for individuals seeking to exercise their reproductive rights, particularly those in rural areas, those with limited access to transportation, and those facing financial or personal constraints that make in-person visits difficult or impossible. Furthermore, the bill fails to account for the critical role these medications play in miscarriage management. Many individuals experiencing a miscarriage at home rely on the same medications used in abortion care to safely complete the process and avoid invasive surgical procedures. I, myself, had that exact experience, and accessing these medication to complete my miscarriage allowed me to go on to have a healthy baby. Requiring in-person oversight for a process that is already safely managed at home in most cases is not only medically unnecessary but also places an additional burden on patients experiencing an already difficult and often traumatic event.

This legislation does not enhance patient safety or improve healthcare outcomes; rather, it imposes arbitrary and politically motivated restrictions that ignore both medical expertise and the lived experiences of those seeking reproductive care. I urge you to reject HP 572 and to instead support policies that expand, rather than restrict, access to safe and effective reproductive healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Michelle Zagardo