



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

May 3, 2011

Media Contact:

Laura Harper, Maine Women's Lobby, 207.462.4067 (cell), 207.622.0851, ext. 21 (office)

Sarah Standiford, Maine Women's Lobby, 207.837.2609 (cell), 207.622.0851, ext 20 (office)

Maine Women's Lobby Activists Gather in Augusta to Oppose Anti-Choice Bills

Lawmakers should not insert themselves between women and their doctors

Augusta – Today the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary will hear three anti-abortion bills. Although the hearing is scheduled for 1pm, by noon the committee room was filled with pro-choice activists dressed in pink.

The committee will be hearing L.D. 116, “An Act To Require a 24-hour Waiting Period prior to an Abortion,” L.D. 924, “An Act To Educate Women on the Medical Risks Associated with Abortion,” L.D. 1457, “An Act To Strengthen the Consent Laws for Abortions Performed on Minors and Incapacitated Persons.” These three bills represent the latest attack on reproductive freedom and attempt to insert lawmakers into the most private of a woman's decisions – the decision of when and if to bear children.

Laura Harper, Director of Public Policy for the Maine Women's Lobby, said, “In our view there is nothing more fundamental to women's full equality than having the right to make private decisions regarding her body, her family, and her future. Childbearing decisions, at their core, are about the ability for a woman to determine her future. It is ironic that, at a time when the will of policymakers trends towards the concept of “less government,” these bills do exactly the opposite by creating more intrusive government regulation of a woman's body and her health care decisions. The consequences of such a move are dangerous and threaten women's freedom, health, financial security, and safety.”

###