



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

May 18, 2021

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

I join you today on behalf of the Maine Women's Lobby. For over forty years, the Maine Women's Lobby has advocated for public policy which increases the health, wellness, safety, and economic security of Maine women and girls, with a focus on the most marginalized populations and communities.

We write today **in opposition of LD 825, "An Act To Ensure Equality in Women's Health Care Access in Maine by Requiring Facilities Providing Abortions To Inform Patients of Options and Alternatives," and LD 851 "An Act To Ensure Women Are Informed of Abortion Pill Reversal."**

These bills require providers to inform patients of so-called 'abortion pill reversal.' The American Medical Association and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have both opposed mandatory counseling about 'abortion pill reversal' because the premise is not grounded in science or reality. When policymakers intervene in the private medical decisions that take place between pregnant people and their providers, virtually all politically imposed limitations and barriers disproportionately harm women who are already marginalized or oppressed. **For instance, women who lack access to quality medical care – either because of geography, insurance, or resources – are less likely to be able to manage the health risks that can come from this unsafe and untested practice.**¹

There are virtually no circumstances where the Legislature would choose to prescribe the medical care and conversations that a provider would have with a patient – imagine writing a bill about obligatory hip replacement scripts, or legislatively mandated prostate cancer treatments that were not grounded in peer reviewed evidence. It is hard to imagine. That's because providers have the training and resources they need to provide the right information and care to their patients, and there is a process for accountability when that doesn't happen. **Simultaneously, women understand the choices they are making when they pursue an abortion, and very few regret their choices.**²

We trust women and providers to make informed decisions grounded in data, and we hope you do too. **Please vote 'ought not to pass' on LD 825 and LD 851.**

Sincerely,

Destie Hohman Sprague, Executive Director
Maine Women's Lobby / mainewomen.org

¹ Washington Post. (2019). Some lawmakers push 'abortion reversal' treatments. A study shows how dangerous they are. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2019/12/24/some-lawmakers-push-abortion-reversal-treatments-new-study-shows-how-dangerous-they-are/>

² Rocca, C.H., Kimport, K., Gould, H. and Foster, D.G. (2013), Women's Emotions One Week After Receiving or Being Denied an Abortion in the United States. *Perspect Sex Repro H*, 45: 122-131.
<https://doi.org/10.1363/4512213>