



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 1229, "An Act To Require Certain Medical Providers To Administer Ultrasounds and Provide Information to Certain Pregnant Patients."**

LD 1229 seeks to impose a waiting period before accessing abortion care, legislatively-mandates unnecessary medical procedures, and dictates what providers offer for information and images during their treatment. As with all such limitations and restrictions: when policymakers intervene in the private medical decisions that should take place between pregnant people and their providers, they create policies that disproportionately harm women who are already marginalized or oppressed.

In the case of this bill, we know that:

- **Waiting periods have a much more significant effect on rurally-located women**, who may have to travel farther or find accommodation to manage the waiting period.¹
- **Poor women already experience more delays** due to barriers related to payment and transportation, and arbitrary or artificial added delays create more harm for those with fewer resources.²
- **Women face far higher lifetime healthcare costs than men** – even after improvements under the Affordable Care Act.³ Required but unnecessary medical procedures create added medical expense that disproportionately affects women with no health insurance, poor insurance, or high deductibles.

Women in Maine deserve to make the decisions that affect their health and lives with their family and their providers – not with policymakers. **We hope you will vote 'ought not to pass' on LD 1229.**

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

¹ White K, deMartelly V, Grossman D, Turan JM. Experiences Accessing Abortion Care in Alabama among Women Traveling for Services. *Womens Health Issues*. 2016 May-Jun;26(3):298-304. doi: 10.1016/j.whi.2016.01.003. Epub 2016 Feb 17. PMID: 26897655.

² Jones & Jerman. (2016). Guttmacher Institute: Time to Appointment and Delays in Accessing Care Among U.S. Abortion Patients. Retrieved from <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/delays-in-accessing-care-among-us-abortion-patients>

³ Borchelt, G. (2018). American Bar Association Human Rights Magazine. The Impact Poverty has on Women's Health. Vol. 43, No. 3.