

May 18, 2021

LD 825

LD 851

Testimony to Judiciary Committee



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Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Deborah Crump and I live in West Paris, Maine. I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network in opposition to 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.

As a person of faith I believe women have the right to make their own decisions about whether to have an abortion based on honest, reliable, evidence-based information. As a nurse, I am bound by the ethics of my profession, as are all health care providers, to provide accurate, honest information about medical procedures. In researching the issue of "abortion pill reversal", I found there is no scientific evidence or medical basis for this procedure and it could be harmful if attempted. This legislation would force physicians and other providers to tell their patients that medication abortions may be reversible, a claim wholly unsupported by the best, most reliable scientific evidence. Providing such misleading information is not only unethical but dangerous. A number of states have passed similar laws in the last few years, including North Dakota in 2019. The American Medical Association was so concerned about this law they filed suit against the state and subsequently a federal judge blocked its implementation. (1) The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists states that "claims regarding abortion 'reversal' treatment are not based on science and do not meet clinical standards." Researchers, in an attempt to meet ethical and scientific standards, began a study of abortion "reversal" but had stop the study after three patients had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance with severe bleeding.

These pieces of legislation represent dangerous political interference and compromise patient care and safety. Maine people need to be able to make their own reproductive health decisions without shame, stigma, medically inaccurate information, or outside infringement or influence. This is a deeply personal matter and one of the most important decisions a person can face. I oppose abortion restrictions that will shame, endanger and punish women or recklessly take personal medical decisions in complicated situations out of the hands of women, families and their doctors. I urge this committee to vote ought not to pass on LD 825 and LD 851. Thank you for your time.

(1) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/medication-abortion-reversal-is-devoid-of-scientific-support-judge-rules-in-north-dakota-today-2019-09-10/>



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