



# SUIT UP MAINE

May 18, 2021

Sen. Carney, Rep. Harnett, and Honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Kelli Whitlock Burton and I am a resident of Waldoboro. I offer this testimony in opposition to the six anti-abortion bills described below on behalf of Suit Up Maine, an independent, all-volunteer constituent action group representing more than 5,000 Mainers in all 16 counties.

- LD 748 and LD 915, which would reverse a 2019 law that removed discriminatory barriers to abortion care by requiring public and private insurers to cover abortion care, allowing all Mainers to access the medical care they need regardless of their income.
- LD 825 and LD 851, which would require health care providers to give patients inaccurate and misleading information about so-called “abortion pill reversal,” a process shown to cause massive hemorrhaging and deemed dangerous and unproven by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- LD 1229, which would require a 48-hour waiting period before a person could receive an abortion, and subjects patients to unnecessary medical procedures.
- LD 1225, which would mandate burial or cremation for fetal tissue following miscarriage or abortion. The bill doesn’t indicate who is responsible for burial or cremation costs but does require people who miscarry outside a medical facility to collect the fetal tissue themselves and deliver it to a medical provider or appropriate government agency. Bills such as this are intended to shame people who choose to have an abortion and cause additional grief to those who’ve suffered a miscarriage.

These bills are part of a national attack on reproductive health care. Since January, 536 bills to restrict abortion access—including 146 abortion bans—have been introduced in 46 states, and 61 of those have already been enacted in 13 states. The bills described below would require health care providers to share medically inaccurate information with their patients, subject patients to a medically unnecessary procedure and force a 48-hour delay before they could receive the health care they need, force people who undergo an abortion or who have a miscarriage to foot the bill for burial or cremation of fetal remains, and reverse a law designed to ensure all Mainers have access to legal health care, regardless of their income. There is little doubt that this slate of legislation is designed not to improve the health of pregnant people, but rather to the detriment of their care. Reproductive health care decisions should be left to medical professionals and their patients. I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on all six bills. Thank you.

Kelli Whitlock Burton  
Co-Leader, Suit Up Maine