

Testimony in support
LD 915: An Act To Conform State Funding To The Federal Hyde Amendment Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services
May 18, 2021

Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Karen Vachon and I am the Executive Director of Maine Right To Life, located in Auburn. We support LD 915: An Act To Conform State Funding To The Federal Hyde Amendment Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services.

Maine Right to Life is a state affiliate of the National Right To Life Committee. We are a non-profit organization founded to protect and uphold the dignity and worth of every human life from conception to natural death by making abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia socially, ethically, and legally unacceptable and to actively promote positive alternatives. We are Pro-Life, Pro-Active, and Pro-Women.

There are [33 states and the District of Columbia](#) that follow the federal standard, providing abortion funding in cases of life endangerment, rape, or incest. [Maine is one of only seven states](#) that voluntarily directs Medicaid to pay for all or most medically necessary abortions. According to Maine CDC, [abortion takes the lives of 5.3 children/day](#) in our state. Meanwhile, research shows [58% of Americans oppose the taxpayer funding of abortion](#). And, our beautiful state is dying. [Maine is one of four states](#), where more people die/year than are being born. Maine's death [rate rose 4.5% in 2020](#). [Maine ranks 6th](#) in the country in drug overdose deaths (2019). [Maine is the oldest state in the nation](#), with a median age of 45.1. This is not: Maine – the way LIFE should be. Maine is promoting a culture of death. Our policy matters.

The [Hyde amendment has saved 2.5 million](#) lives. It has reduced the number of abortions. When government doesn't promote abortion, people choose life. The tide has turned on the public's view of abortion. Today, [former abortion leaders](#), have seen the light: abortion is the taking of a human life. Taxpayers oppose paying for abortion. It is not "reproductive healthcare" – it is a "choice" to end a precious, speechless, innocent life. Abortion takes an emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual toll on people. It's time for Maine to live up to its beautiful slogan and promote a culture of life. We all will be better for it. Life is good. Let's promote it, not abort it at taxpayer expense.

I urge the committee to vote ought to pass. Thank you.

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