

**Testimony in support  
LD 1225: An Act To Provide Dignity For Fetal Remains By Requiring Their Interment or Cremation  
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 of LD 1225: An Act To Provide Dignity For Fetal Remains By Requiring Their Interment or Cremation

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.

While Maine law ensures the dignified disposal of most human remains, current law does not fully protect fetal remains when the baby's death occurs in the earlier weeks and months of pregnancy due to stillbirth, miscarriage, or abortion.

Today, before leaving the hospital after a miscarriage, a mother is not always advised of her right to her baby's remains, which are often whisked away to laboratory, to be later combined with medical waste

This bill addresses the dignity and respect of human life, requiring a proper burial. It also requires that women who suffer fetal loss be informed orally and in writing of her right to choose the final disposition and options of cremation and interment. It strikes at the heart of Personhood, defining the embryo/fetus as a human being, whose remains are worthy of cremation or interment, and ensures that fetal remains are not discarded as biomedical waste.

Maine Right To Life believes that every human life from conception to death deserves dignity, respect, and a proper burial. We humbly ask this committee to vote ought to pass. Thank you!

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