

# MAINE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE

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## **LD1613: An Act to Ensure Access to Women's Health & Economic Security** **Testimony in opposition**

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and distinguished members of Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. I am Karen Vachon, former State Representative from Scarborough, and current Executive Director of Maine Right to Life Committee, located in Auburn Maine. I come before you today grateful for your service; and in opposition to LD 1613.

The Maine Right to Life Committee (MRLC) is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee. We are a statewide non-profit corporation, founded to protect and uphold the dignity and worth of each human life from conception to natural death by making abortion, infanticide and euthanasia socially, ethically and legally unacceptable and to actively promote positive alternatives.

The title of this bill sounds quite noble. Who doesn't want women to have access to the best healthcare possible? And yes – good health leads to economic security. Women, and only women, have the awesome power to carry new life into this world and beautiful state. Providing life-giving care during pregnancy means a future generation of Mainers.

When you get under the hood of this bill, the title and the purpose is very deceiving. This is about replacing lost Title X funding. Abortion is not healthcare; it does not bear fruit.

Once upon a time, Bill Clinton advocated for abortions to be “safe, legal, and rare”<sup>1</sup>. Next thing you know, abortions became “a personal choice between a woman, her family, and her doctor with no government interference”. Last session, this legislature passed LD 820 not only demanding that our tax dollars pay for elective abortions for women on MaineCare, but that private health insurance policies covering maternity care also pay for elective abortions. Today, the abortion lobby is all about “Loud and Proud: abortion on demand without apology.”

A new [Gallup poll](#) issued January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 is titled: Dissatisfaction with US abortion laws at a new high, reveals a 7% increase from just a year ago. Today, 58% of Americans are not happy with our nation's abortion laws believing the laws should be stricter. This is a new high for Gallup's trend. <sup>2</sup>

Since 1970, Title X providers have received billions of tax-payer dollars, with much of these dollars going to abortion providers who have *increased* the number of abortions per year, rather than *decrease* abortions. This – while abortions in the US have seen a steady decline, hitting new record lows each year. The good news – women, on their own, are choosing life. And teens in Maine are too. From 2007 – 2017, teenage abortions have declined by 52%.

This bill is over-kill. Taxpayers and health insurance policy holders have had enough. Please vote no!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vox.com/2019/10/18/20917406/abortion-safe-legal-and-rare-tulsi-gabbard>

<sup>2</sup> [news.gallup.com/poll/283916/dissatisfaction-abortion-laws-new-high.aspx](https://news.gallup.com/poll/283916/dissatisfaction-abortion-laws-new-high.aspx)