

CONCERNED  
**WOMEN** *for* **AMERICA**  
OF MAINE

**Statement by  
Penny Morrell, State Director  
Concerned Women for America of Maine**

**Regarding L.D. 820,  
"An Act To Prevent Discrimination in Public and Private  
Insurance Coverage for Pregnant Women in Maine"**

**March 27, 2019**

Sen. Sanborn, Rep. Tepler, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Service Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am Penny Morrell, State Director of Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Maine.

CWA of Maine opposes L.D. 820, "An Act to Prevent Discrimination in Public and Private Insurance Coverage for Pregnant Women in Maine." CWA of Maine has and will always stand against abortion for any reason and at any time.

The pro-abortion lobby is going for the touchdown with this bill. Are they panicking? Are they afraid they will lose their money, power, and debate? It would seem so when you look at this bill. L.D. 820 will *force* insurance companies to include abortion coverage in their health plans and *require* the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to pay for abortions for those enrolled in MaineCare. This is an affront to any thoughtful person and taxpayer.

The requirements of L.D. 820 is contrary to recent polling of Americans on abortion. According to a report from the online news site *Axios*, 55 percent of Americans support protecting a child when it is in the womb and carrying out the pregnancy.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, Marist released a poll sponsored by the Knights of Columbus that showed sudden, dramatic gains for the pro-life side of America's long abortion fight. The poll showed that Americans are evenly split on whether they identify as pro-life and pro-choice at 47 percent each. That would be a big shift from just last January when the poll found that 55 percent considered themselves to be pro-choice and 38 percent said they were pro-life.<sup>2</sup>

Further, a recent poll by the Public Religion Research Institute found that 54% of Americans say that abortion "goes against my personal beliefs." The same poll found 51% of women and 55% of men say abortion should not be covered by health insurance plans.<sup>3</sup>

This body does not have the right to dictate that a *private* company cover abortion through their plans nor force Mainers to pay for abortions through taxes.

I respectfully ask this committee to vote L.D. 820 "ought not to pass." Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.axios.com/abortion-rights-marist-poll-pro-life-pro-choice-7170b431-eb2f-4292-b801-8ed56cf2d056.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/communications/kofc-marist-poll-tables-1902251324.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ppri.org/research/young-people-set-to-impact-the-debate-on-womens-health-issues>