



DIOCESE OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 18, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, the state legislature in Maine has passed a measure (LD 820) that forces MaineCare and other health insurance carriers to provide coverage for abortion services. Governor Mills has signed the bill into law, meaning that every Maine taxpayer will be made to fund non-medically necessary abortions. Whether or not Maine taxpayers have a religious affiliation, using tax dollars in this manner is an outrage.

Good citizens who diligently pay their taxes are being forced to fund abortions, with no way to avoid the reality that they are paying for an immoral act. In many cases, individuals will be going against their morality and beliefs. This is not simply a religious issue. It is about human dignity and a law's attempt to rob individuals and families of their right to respect that dignity from conception to natural death.

This law dismisses the sacredness of human life with the intentional taking of a human life. There is hope, but lay Catholics have a clear role to effect a successful opposition.

Several organizations are leading a "People's Veto" against taxpayer-funded abortion. As your bishop, I support this effort and encourage you to have your voice heard. A "People's Veto" requires 64,000 registered voters in Maine to sign a petition that would send the measure to a statewide referendum. If you are a registered voter who wishes to sign, please ask your priest or a parish employee for guidance on how to do so in your area.

Abortion is not health care. It intentionally takes the life of the most vulnerable among us; abortion also harms women and men, creating deep regret and remorse in many who choose it. Abortion tears families apart. Please join me in praying that the great opposition to this law will stir the consciences of our elected officials into an active promotion of the defense of all human life.

Sincerely in Jesus, our Hope,

Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley, J.C.D.
Bishop of Portland