Kelsey Stevens Machias LD 1619

My name is Kelsey Stevens. I am from Machias, Maine. At 22 years old, and within 5 weeks of being released from prison, I found out I was pregnant. I chose to terminate my pregnancy by abortion. Due to mild complications, I was dealing with medical issues months later. 8 months later, in September 2020, I found out I was pregnant again. Despite previous complications and emotional distress I chose to terminate the pregnancy again. In 2017 I was responsible for an incident that resulted in the death of someone who I was very close with. This incident happened due to my own choices and negligent behavior. What I began to realize after terminating these two babies was that I experienced the same grief, anxiety, regret, and shame after the abortions just as I had when dealing with the loss of my friend. This is significant because just as I grieved and felt shame over my 21 year old friend, I also grieved and felt shame over these unborn children. Of course these situations are different, with different emotional responses, but the root of both situations is that lives were lost. In both situations I acted on selfish feelings resulting in the loss of life. These are aspects of an abortion that a women does not foresee. I convinced myself it was not possible to follow through with either pregnancy. I was looking for freedom in abortion, but I only found bondage to shame, guilt, regret, and fear. This bill, although seemingly to help women, will open the door for more emotional distress for women, and the loss of more lives. This bill leaves room for medical malpractice. This bill directly violates the protection that we as people should have for the precious life of a any human, born or unborn, at any stage of pregnancy. Our future should be determined by God only, not by government or any man. I do not approve of this bill. Please take these statements into consideration.