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LD 682

I am writing to speak out against LD 682 and all the bills related to abortion care in Maine that are being discussed here today. All represent aspects of the same problem: this is critical care that is being denied because of an ideological agenda. The fact that these bills are being proposed at all is alarming, and makes me afraid for my own reproductive freedoms.

From 2017 to 2021 I lived in Idaho. During that time (note this was all BEFORE Dobbs), all abortions after 6 weeks were banned and abortion care was effectively illegal in the state. Here are 3 things that I witnessed in my approximately 7,000 person community during that time.

1. A close friend became pregnant when her birth control failed. She went to a crisis pregnancy center, which only counseled women to birth the child and keep it or give it up for adoption. She had to go out of state to get an abortion. The pregnancy center called her every year on the due date if she had carried that pregnancy to term. It was a horrific act of harassment.
2. A colleague of mine became pregnant and discovered that the baby had a fatal birth defect at 20 weeks. She and her partner had to fundraise in our community in order to take a flight to the nearest major city that would provide her an abortion so she would not have to carry the fetus to term and have it die in her arms. It was a horrific experience.
3. Another friend was in residency and doing an Ob/Gyn rotation at a hospital in another part of Idaho. She described having to carefully make statements about a mother's life being imminently in danger before performing routine medical interventions to stop bleeding.

These bills are inhumane to a massive degree. They infantilize people with the ability to bear children and treat them as though they cannot and should not be allowed to make choices for their own bodies. I chose to have a child and I would not wish anyone, for any reason, to be forced to go through a pregnancy or birth. For some reason, some people in this legislature feel they have the right to require that of me.