

Jennifer McNamara  
Tremont  
LD 682

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee

My name is Jennifer McNamara, a concerned resident of Tremont. I firmly oppose LD 682 - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions. This bill, which proposes to ban abortions except when it is medically necessary to save the mother's life or when the fetus is diagnosed with a lethal fetal anomaly, is a threat to women's overall health and safety. There are many reasons why someone may choose to terminate a pregnancy beyond medical necessity, including but not limited to financial instability, interference with career goals or experiencing domestic abuse. Access to a safe and healthy abortion, no matter the reason, means pregnant people receive this care in hygienic facilities by trained professionals. Testimony from before the passing of Roe V. Wade has shown us that when this is not available, many patients will turn to unsafe self-inflicted abortions or "back-alley" procedures. Many individuals who choose to have an abortion for personal reasons will later go on to have children, so access to safe abortions means healthy pregnancy and higher maternal survival later on. As a low-income, young woman, I would be afraid to live in the state of Maine if this bill was passed. We need to protect the right to choose in all circumstances, not only ones that are deemed as medically necessary.