

Jennifer Therrien
Eliot
LD 975
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To the members of the Judiciary,

I would like the opportunity to make known my FERVENT opposition to LD 682: An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions, LD 253 An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services, and LD 975: An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion.

I implore you to vote against these bills.

I am a registered nurse with over 23 years of experience in labor and delivery - and I can tell you first hand the women whose pregnancies end in later terms are NOT callous women who have a change of heart or were careless in their decision to be pregnant - rather, most women who have pregnancies that end after viability are women who by no choice of their own are faced with fetuses that did not survive, or a pregnancy complication that is devastating. These women birth their babies, name them, hold them, take memory boxes of tiny footprints home and grieve the loss of their pregnancy and fetus that could not or did not survive.

I also know that because of the availability of safe abortions to Maine girls and women, we don't tend to see many unwanted pregnancies- either because a woman or girl has decided *****FOR HERSELF, FOR ANY REASON, AT ANY TIME***** that she does not want to carry a pregnancy - be it physically, financially, emotionally, or for health or safety reasons. Having access to safe abortions means that a woman or girl has autonomy not just over her body, but over her very life - her future. To strip away a woman's right to safe abortion will never stop abortions - it will only stop women from having SAFE abortions. Abortion is health care - full stop.

I urge you to leave healthcare decisions up to individuals and their providers - for they are the experts on women's health. No government should have any say in an individual's right to their own healthcare choices.

If you personally do not wish to ever have an abortion, by all means do not have one. But don't ever think for a moment that the time will not come when someone YOU love is (or has been!) faced with wanting or needing an abortion - and what a scary and sad reality that loved one would face if they were unable to access they care they needed safely and timely, and without fear of prosecution. To place personal or religious judgements on another persons' right to access and/or provide healthcare is dangerous and frankly, it is unAmerican.

Thank you in advance for doing right by Mainers and not supporting these dangerous bills.

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