

Leah Johnson  
Portland Maine  
LD 975

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Leah and I am a resident of Portland, Maine. I am disturbed at the current bill, LD 975, An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion. There are a myriad of reasons why a woman seeks an abortion, and it is not an easy choice. The women of Maine deserve to have the right to choose what is best for them. Some women are raped, and therefore did not even consensually participate in sexual behavior that created the fetus. Some women are told by their doctors that their lives would be at risk if they went through with the pregnancy. It is quite literally life or death for the mother, who is a fully independent member of society, unlike the fetus. Even if a woman decided to have an abortion solely because she does not feel capable of caring for a child, and does not want to put that future child through the trauma that they will undoubtedly face in foster care, that is her decision and not the state's. There are already over 360,000 children in foster care in the U.S. If Maine bans abortion, not only will the already at capacity foster care system continue to be stretched thin, it will also lead to thousands of children staying with families that are not equipped to care for them. Protecting the right to abortion allows the right for a woman to have the choice to decide if she and her partner have the capacity to parent a child at that point in their lives.

As a social worker, I see first hand the effects of generational trauma on families. With the current economic climate, and wages that are not being increased to meet the cost of living in Maine, the prohibition of abortion will undoubtedly negatively affect women in the most vulnerable of positions.

Lastly, women and people with uteruses will have abortions no matter what. Historically, it is seen that women have used unsafe methods to have abortions, even risking their lives. All that is done by criminalizing abortion is reinstate the use of many "back door" abortion methods.

Maine legislators must make the right decision to vote NO on LD 975, to protect the livelihoods and safety of women and children.

Sincerely,  
Leah Johnson  
Portland, Maine