

Hearing March 28 at 9:30 am

Judiciary

**Testimony against LD 975 An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion**

**Linda Small  
Portland, Maine  
Reentry Sisters  
March 26, 2025**

Hello, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Linda Small from Portland and I'm the executive director of Reentry Sisters, an organization supporting justice-impacted women. We strongly oppose LD 975, which seeks to repeal abortion rights in Maine and criminalize abortion.

This bill would disproportionately harm the women we serve—those already navigating the criminal legal system, poverty, and trauma. Criminalizing abortion does not stop abortion; it only makes it more dangerous. Historically, laws like this have led to the prosecution of pregnant people, particularly those who miscarry or struggle with substance use. We have seen firsthand how criminalization fuels cycles of incarceration, poverty, and family separation.

LD 975 codifies the belief that personhood begins at conception based on certain religious beliefs. By enacting this bill, partner abuse that harms a fetus and necessary post-viability abortions to save a mother's life and therefore prevent pregnancies from coming to term could be classified as murder.

Additionally, LD 975 would require the mandatory reporting of miscarriages, forcing healthcare providers to submit detailed reports to the state. This is a dangerous intrusion into private medical care and could lead to increased surveillance and criminalization of pregnancy outcomes. Women experiencing the trauma of miscarriage should not have to fear scrutiny or investigation when seeking medical care.

Reentry Sisters stands for autonomy, dignity, and public safety. LD 975 does not protect families—it destabilizes them. We urge you to reject this dangerous bill and protect the rights and well-being of Maine women and families.

Thank you.