

Geoffrey Bates  
South Bristol  
LD 975

Submitted testimony in opposition of LD975

Geoffrey Bates  
South Bristol, ME

Honorable members of the Judiciary,

I submit this testimony to you today with deep concern and strong opposition to Maine bill LD975, "An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion."

I am a 73 year-old white man who has fathered four children, each of whom I love and am very proud.

But this bill is a full-throated assault on the fundamental rights, health, and autonomy of Maine women and I must plead with the committee to strike it down. Enacting this Bill would place countless Maine women--of every age, race, and economic condition--in jeopardy when making already difficult choices about their future and, indeed, the future of any children they might be forced to bear.

And the idea of banning contraception within the state is absolutely ludicrous, on par with the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, aka "Prohibition" during which organized crime supplied what the local liquor store couldn't.

It is incumbent on the Maine legislature that Maine remain a state in which women (and men) can find and purchase contraception in order to plan their families and that women maintain personal governance over their own health decisions.

Respectfully submitted,