

Rachel Casey
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LD 975

I would like to provide written testimony in opposition to LD975, as well as LD253, LD682, LD886, LD887, LD1007, and LD1154. I am an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Southern Maine, where I teach classes about criminal justice based on my experience as a correctional social worker. Laws that restrict abortion access discriminate against women, especially poor women, women of color, and women in rural areas. Criminalizing abortion will not reduce the number of abortions. It will only reduce the number of SAFE abortions. Furthermore, involvement in the justice system will only further disadvantage those members of our communities who already face the greatest hardships related to poverty and discrimination. I believe that access to abortion is an essential form of health care to which all people deserve access without risk of criminal penalties. Thank you.