

Thomas White
Lewiston
LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Thomas White, I live in Lewiston, and I am a student at Bates College.

I am writing in strong opposition to LD 975, a bill that seeks to restrict access to abortion and interfere with personal medical decisions.

As a student and a young person, I care deeply about human rights and bodily autonomy. Legislation like this does not protect people—it endangers them. For so many of us, the fear of sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy, or knowing someone who has experienced rape or abuse is very real. Laws that take away the right to make medical decisions only increase that fear.

This legislation is not about protecting life—it is about controlling it. Abortion bans do not reduce the number of abortions; they reduce the number of safe abortions. They put people's lives at risk, criminalize doctors, and strip individuals of their fundamental right to make private medical decisions. Every pregnancy is different. Some are nonviable. Some endanger the life of the pregnant person. Some are the result of rape or incest. And sometimes, someone simply isn't able or ready to carry a pregnancy to term. None of these deeply personal decisions should be dictated by the government.

I go to school with people from all walks of life, and I see firsthand how access to reproductive healthcare—including abortion—can be essential. Taking that away won't help anyone. It will only cause more pain and risk. My friends, classmates, and community members deserve the right to make choices about their own bodies.

If lawmakers truly wanted to reduce abortions, they would invest in things that actually help: access to contraception, comprehensive sex education, maternal healthcare, and support for families. But this bill doesn't do any of that. It punishes people for their circumstances and removes their autonomy. I urge you to vote NO on LD 975 and stand up for the rights and safety of your constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Thomas White