

Shawn Shannon  
Hebron  
LD 253

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bills LD 253, LD 682, LD 886, LD 887, LD 975, LD 1007, LD 1154 - aimed at limiting safe access to abortion services in Maine. These bills represent an alarming step backward in the fight for women's rights and personal autonomy, and I urge you to vote ought not pass for these harmful bills.

Access to safe, legal abortion is not only a fundamental right, but it is also a deeply personal decision that can only be made by the individual. These decisions are often made under difficult, complex, and highly emotional circumstances. By attempting to pass laws that restrict abortion access, you are not only disregarding the lived experiences of women but also reinforcing a system of control that undermines their agency and their ability to make the best choice for their own bodies, health, and futures.

It is crucial to understand that these bills do not protect women; they seek to impose the ideology of a few over the lives of many. The ideology behind these bills is based on the belief that women should not have control over their own reproductive choices. This is not about protecting life — it is about imposing restrictions on personal freedom and forcing women into decisions that do not reflect their own values or circumstances.

Forcing women to carry pregnancies against their will is not a solution to anything. It is a cruel punishment that exacerbates the economic, social, and emotional challenges that many women already face. Abortion is not a decision made lightly, but it is a necessary option for many, and those who need it should not be denied access to the care they deserve.

It is essential that our state's laws reflect a commitment to equality, autonomy, and the right of every individual to make the best decisions for their own lives, without interference from those who do not understand or respect their experiences.

I ask you to listen to the voices of those affected by these decisions and to oppose any legislation that seeks to control women's bodies and limit their rights. The ideological views of a few should not be allowed to dictate the most personal, difficult, and life-altering decisions for others.

Please, do the right thing and protect the rights, health, and dignity of all women in our state.