

George Schelling
Orland
LD 253

Esteemed Legislators:

I am George Schelling. I live in Orland. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my total opposition to the five abortion related bills before you today, which include LD 975, LD 886, LD887, LD 1007 and LD1154. I will focus most of my comments on LD 975, as the flagship of this virtual armada attacking the rights of women in Maine.

I am one of the great majority of Maine citizens who believes that each of us has an inherent right to control our own body.

By criminalizing abortion, LD 975 would fundamentally alter women's lives, endangering their health, their financial well-being, their dreams and aspirations and their place in society.

The fact that this bill provides no exceptions for abortions to preserve the health of the mother or for cases of rape and incest demonstrates the total indifference the drafters have to the well-being of the mother. It is hard to believe that the proponents claim a religious basis for this cruel assault on the dignity and well being of not only women but on their partners and families as well.

LD 886 would impose a legal requirement on any abortion provider to inform the patient of the "spiritual risks" of undergoing a medication abortion. This preposterous effort to turn medical professionals into spiritual providers makes clear that this armada is an attempt to foist an extreme, narrowly-held religious doctrine on the people of Maine.

LD 975's declaration that life begins at conception would have enormous and destabilizing consequences throughout our entire legal structure. It has been rejected when it has been suggested outside of theocracies.

While not as draconian as some of the other bills in this armada, LD 887 seeks to limit abortion by tightening restrictions and definitions which will have the impact of intimidation of both patients and providers.

Thank you