

Jason Raper
Auburn
LD 253

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Testimony of Jason Raper in Opposition of LD 253: An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jason Raper, resident of Auburn, Androscoggin County. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to voice my opposition for LD 253: An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services.

In this suite of legislation aimed at abortion, LD 682 (An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortion) acknowledges the need for some abortion services. While federal Medicaid may cover an abortion in instances of rape, incest, or where the mother's life is endangered, this is inadequate for coverage of even the proposed standard for an abortion, which would include fetal abnormalities.

On top of that, should federal law change, in this political climate of upending federal governance, it is not unreasonable to consider that the federal coverage for even the most basic abortion services could be put at risk. This would leave low-income Mainers having to cover a procedure that even the proposed legislation deems medical care.

An abortions is already likely one of the hardest decisions any American must face. Why would we want to make that moment harder for Mainers who are already facing financial hardships?

I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass."