

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Dudley Holdridge, I live in Cape Elizabeth, and I am a second-year student at Bowdoin College. I am writing in extreme opposition of LD:975 to oppose the repeal of abortion rights protection and criminalization of the procedure.

While this legislation claims to be about protecting lives, it is instead about gaining power over the people and implementing policies that control lives. Abortion bans have proven to not reduce the number of abortion procedures, but instead reduce the safety of these procedures. Placing bans on the bodies of our citizens do nothing but put people at risk, place doctors in positions that often cause legal trouble, and take away fundamental rights and freedom of choice. Although you may think getting an abortion is a hurtful practice, placing bans on abortions is even more harmful to the women that you stand next to every day. People request abortions for many reasons; some pregnancies are potentially fatal for the mother, others are a cause of rape. Other times, a pregnancy is merely an accident that happens to an unprepared individual. By “protecting lives”, this bill has the potential to force people to raise children in unethical conditions, possibly kill women who cannot handle the physical burden, and take away the fundamental rights outlined by the constitution.

If Maine lawmakers actually cared about reducing abortions and protecting valuable lives, they would focus on preventative measures rather than reactive measures. They would focus on offering accessible sex education, contraceptives like condoms and birth control, healthcare, and programs that help us avoid unwanted pregnancies. This bill does none of that, and instead puts the lives of women and children alike at risk. I encourage you to consider the potential harm this bill would cause, and the burden you would carry knowing that it is your doing. The government has no right to make personal decisions like these, and efforts should be focused on safety itself. Let the people make their own decisions, let the doctors do their jobs and assist, and let people live safe and happy lives without the control of the government.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dudley Holdridge