

Meg Springer  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Meg Springer, I live in Cape Elizabeth and I work at Bowdoin College. I am writing in extreme opposition of LD:975. This bill is horrifying to me and a serious violation of human rights- in particular the rights of women and children.

“The bill redefines "human being" in the Maine Criminal Code to include a human being from the moment of conception, effectively granting legal personhood to embryos and fetuses. It removes references to abortion from various state statutes, including those related to reproductive health care services, family planning, and medical records. The bill eliminates previous legal protections for abortion services, repeals entire chapters of law related to reproductive health, and adds new reporting requirements for miscarriages. Specifically, it defines "abortion" as the intentional interruption of pregnancy and requires health care professionals to report miscarriages to the state, while ensuring the confidentiality of patient and healthcare provider identities. The legislation also removes previous provisions about abortion services from medical professional regulations, insurance coverage, and emergency medical service information collection. By expanding the definition of "person" to include conception and removing abortion-related legal protections, the bill effectively criminalizes abortion in Maine and treats it as a potential criminal offense under existing assault and homicide statutes.”

As a mother of two children who had to make the devastating decision to have an abortion with my first planned and intentional pregnancy- due to a fatal diagnosis and my health- I can vouch for the importance of a woman being in charge of the choice's for her own body. It is not legal property, nor is it illegal or criminal for a woman to make decisions about her life and future.

“If lawmakers truly cared about reducing abortions, they would focus on expanding access to contraception, comprehensive sex education, affordable childcare, and maternal healthcare. But this bill does none of that. Instead, it punishes people for their circumstances and removes their bodily autonomy. I urge you to reject this cruel and dangerous legislation. The government has no place in personal medical decisions. Let people make these choices with their doctors, their families, and their own conscience—not politicians.”

Please do your civic duty and uphold the rights of women and children. Thank you for doing everything in your power to safeguard human rights.

Meg Springer