

Xan Vella
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LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Xan Vella, and I am a Bowdoin College student in Brunswick, ME. I am writing in extreme opposition of LD:975, and oppose the repeal of existing laws that permit abortion in Maine and aim to criminalize the procedure.

In the case of women's rights, so many of us have personal experiences with fear of sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy, and constant fear for our friends and loved ones' safety.

This legislation is not about protecting life—it is about controlling it. Abortion bans do not reduce the number of abortions; they reduce the number of safe abortions. They put people's lives at risk, criminalize doctors, and strip individuals of their fundamental right to make private medical decisions. Every pregnancy is different, and so is every person facing one. Some pregnancies are nonviable. Some put the pregnant person's life at risk. Some occur under devastating circumstances, such as rape or incest. And sometimes, a person simply is not ready or able to carry a pregnancy to term. None of these deeply personal decisions should be dictated by the government.

By my 18th birthday, I had already had to help friends of mine find access to healthcare, drive them to abortion clinics, and support them as they recovered both emotionally and physically. Thankfully, we lived in a state where abortions were protected, and they were able to access the help they needed to finish high school. This is not the experience for countless women across the country. Countless young female lives are at risk when you criminalize their access to safe reproductive healthcare.

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.”

Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Xan Vella.