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LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Luna Jiang-Qin. I am a student who lives in Brunswick, Maine, and I attend Bowdoin College. I am writing in extreme opposition of LD: 975 to oppose the criminalization of abortion and the repeal of laws allowing abortion.

As a young woman of reproductive age and an aspiring doctor who is starting medical school this fall, abortion and reproductive care are at the front of mind in my personal and professional life. This topic has dominated my mind because, from the time I was a young girl trying to understand what it means to live in my body in this world, I learned that pregnancy is an incredible and surreal experience. Pregnancy is not a trivial experience—it can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausting. This both amazes and terrifies me. Because of this, it terrifies me even more to think that people who may not be in a position to carry through a pregnancy will be forced to do so—at the expense of their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. There are so many reasons someone may need to terminate their pregnancy, and it is incredibly dangerous and unfair for the government to prevent individuals from being able to make this decision at all.

Further, excluding health care and education related to abortion from family planning services severely limits the options available to pregnant people in making the best decision for their health. Not only does it remove autonomy from the pregnant individual, it prevents doctors and other medical providers from fulfilling their professional duty to do no harm to the patient and to provide informed consent—which means informing patients of all health care options available to them, including abortion.

Over the last few years, as I have watched the landscape of reproductive health care change so drastically across the United States, I have felt incredibly safe, supported, and grateful to live in Maine. I have felt safe knowing that my rights are protected—that the rights of my friends, my coworkers, and people I don't even know are protected. I have seen 19 other states completely ban or severely limit abortion, and I fear that training in these states will not equip me to serve patients with the best care possible. I have felt proud and excited knowing that, four years from now, I can become a practicing physician in Maine, and that I will be able to provide them all the information, support, and access to care that they need to make the best decisions for themselves. This is why I strongly urge you against passing this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely, Luna Jiang-Qin