

Johanna Billings  
Greenville  
LD 253

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to LD 253, which would prevent MaineCare from covering abortion services.

Whether we like it or not, abortion is health care. Most reasonable people agree, at the very least, that abortion should be legal in cases of sexual assault or incest and when the mother's health is in danger.

It is not up to strangers to decide whether whether an abortion is warranted. That decision is best left up to the woman and her doctors.

Not covering abortion punishes women who find themselves in situations where they may want or need an abortion. If a woman opts not to have an abortion because it's not covered by MaineCare, who will care for that child when she can't?

No one.

So let's not bring more children into the world to parents who cannot provide for them. One way we can do this is to treat abortion like any other medical issue: Leave the decisions up to patients and their doctors and cover them like any other medical procedure would be covered.

Thank you.