

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary

My name is Kaitlin Weiss and I am writing as a representative of the Bowdoin Reproductive Justice Coalition. I am a senior at Bowdoin College and originally from Summit, New Jersey. I am testifying in opposition to **LD 975, An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion**. LD 975 is an egregious assault on bodily autonomy and reproductive rights. Maine has remained steadfast in its commitment to protecting the reproductive rights of its citizens despite a slew of regressive laws obliterating reproductive health care and rights in other states. I have had the honor and pleasure of living and studying in Maine over the past four years, and am grateful for state laws which protect my right to control my body.

I remember vividly when the Alabama Human Life Protection Act—a piece of the most aggressive anti-Abortion legislation of its time—was proposed. I was 16 years old and terrified. It was inconceivable why legislators sought to trap pregnant people in their own bodies. At 22, I am furious that my government officials have placed themselves in the private medical lives of Americans everywhere. At 16, I wrote the following poem:

A Response to The Alabama Human Life Protection Act

my body is not a weapon
although maybe if it was
the government would stop trying to regulate me
I am a human being. not for your control.
what did we expect would happen when we elected a man who likes to grab women by the p****
grab: as in to forcefully take what is not yours
as in my rights and my autonomy
I am furious
because 25 men sat behind a closed door and decided that rape is less punishable
than the abortion that follows
a movement “about life” with no regard for it
and I wonder if Kay Ivey read the Handmaid’s Tale and felt inspired
If she saw the red and tasted blood
waged a war on women
watch us dismantle the machine you are building
I said my body was not a weapon
see me become one in an instant.

Today, I could replace the title with LD 975, and Kay Ivey with Abigail Griffin and Michael Lemelin. I urge you to vote against this horrific and regressive bill. LD 975 strips Mainers of essential reproductive rights and endangers the well-being of women and families across our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Weiss