

Abby Lank
Arundel
LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Abby Lank and I am a mother living in Arundel, Maine.

I am writing in opposition to LD 975, An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion, which strips Mainers of essential reproductive rights and endangers the well-being of women and families across Maine.

This act to criminalize abortion, as all laws are who seek to place a ban on reproductive rights, is against women. This act would harm women both physically, mentally, and emotionally. Abortions will still take place. They will be unsafe, they will put women, young girls, trans women, non-binary people, anyone who has the ability to reproduce and is at risk for pregnancy will be put in danger.

In my personal experience, having access to abortion allowed me to feel a sense of control after all was taken from me during a sexual assault and rape in my first year of college in Portland, Maine. I was fortunate enough that I did not need an abortion — I was not impregnated. BUT if I had been, how could my rights be taken from me again by the state of Maine? The rights over my body and reproductive health is not for political control.

Years later, I was fortunate enough to be married and expecting a child in a healthy and safe environment. When I found out I was pregnant, I asked myself: “Am I ready?” “Do we have resources?” “Do we have enough money to care for this child?” And my life changed in every way to care for my son. I had an education, family support, a loving husband. I was lucky. Hundreds if not thousands are not as lucky. People living in domestic abuse situations, rape victims, incest victims, those with nonviable pregnancies, pregnancies during mental illness, physical illness — the list goes on of people experiencing situations and circumstances that abortion should be fully legalized and do not owe an explanation to the government to do so.

Please consider that the mere idea of this act coming into law has harmed countless people emotionally and mentally already. We are Mainers. We support each other. We should always support each others right to choose.

Thank you.
Abby Lank