

Written Testimony in Opposition to LD 975

To: The Judiciary Committee, Maine State Legislature

Date: 3/28/25

From: Heather Zirkle, Portland, Maine

Re: LD 975 – *An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion*

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write to you today in **strong opposition to LD 975**, a bill that would repeal laws permitting abortion in Maine and seek to criminalize it by redefining “personhood” to begin at the moment of conception.

As a Christian, my faith is important to me. I believe “personhood” does not begin at the moment of conception. My faith teaches compassion, care for the vulnerable, and respect for individual conscience. To me, faith means trusting individuals to make decisions in partnership with God, not having the government impose one narrow view on everyone. Criminalizing abortion does not reflect the love, mercy, or justice I understand from my faith — it imposes a rigid legal definition that disregards the complexities of real life.

Believing in the sanctity of life also means respecting the lives and well-being of those who are already here — including women and families making painful decisions. This bill would strip women and all people who can become pregnant of their fundamental right to make decisions about their own bodies, health, and futures. It would force pregnancy even in situations of violence, trauma, or medical danger. It would criminalize compassionate, evidence-based care and subject health care providers to prosecution for simply doing their jobs.

Reproductive freedom is a matter of human dignity and moral agency. Without the ability to decide whether and when to have children, women cannot participate in society as equal citizens. LD 975 does not promote life—it promotes government control over deeply personal decisions and punishes people for seeking or providing necessary care.

I urge you to **respect the diversity of belief and conscience in Maine** and vote “ought not to pass” on LD 975.

Thank you for your time and your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

Heather Zirkle
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