

Mattea Baumgardner
Lewiston
LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Mattea Baumgardner, I live in Lewiston, and I am a student at Bates College.

I am writing in extreme opposition of LD:975.

This legislation is not about protecting life—it is about controlling it. Abortion bans do not reduce the number of abortions; they reduce the number of safe abortions. They put people's lives at risk, criminalize doctors, and strip individuals of their fundamental right to make private medical decisions. Every pregnancy is different, and so is every person facing one. Some pregnancies are nonviable. Some put the pregnant person's life at risk. Some occur under devastating circumstances, such as rape or incest. And sometimes, a person simply is not ready or able to carry a pregnancy to term. None of these deeply personal decisions should be dictated by the government.

The government should not be controlling women's bodies. This is a fundamental freedom. I shouldn't even need to be writing this. Our government and country should care about and support its citizens, not place blanket bans on a health matters. People will die in Maine if this bill is passed.

If lawmakers truly cared about reducing abortions, they would focus on expanding access to contraception, comprehensive sex education, affordable childcare, and maternal healthcare. But this bill does none of that. Instead, it punishes people for their circumstances and removes their bodily autonomy. I urge you to reject this cruel and dangerous legislation. The government has no place in personal medical decisions. Let people make these choices with their doctors, their families, and their own conscience—not politicians.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Mattea Baumgardner