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LD 975

My name is Dr. Patricia Collins, I live in Falmouth, ME and am submitting testimony on 3/28/25 to the Judiciary Committee regarding LD 975. I STRONGLY OPPOSE LD 975 and ask our legislature to vote against this bill. As a physician, I believe enacting this bill puts Mainers' wellbeing and lives at risk. The evidence is clear, we know that states that are enacting abortion bans are seeing increasing rates in maternal mortality and morbidity. Propublica released a study in February 2025 that shows sepsis rates rose by more than 50% after Texas enacted it's abortion bans. Sepsis is when the body responds to fighting infection with an overwhelming inflammatory response that can rapidly progress to multiorgan failure and death if not treated adequately and timely. I fear if enacted, this bill will put the lives of pregnant Mainers in jeopardy, creating situations where people may not be able to access or fear accessing the care they need. This bill also defines human being to begin at the moment of conception. Therefore, this bill will not only impact abortion care and accessibility, but as we have seen in other states who have passed similar laws with this language, will impact Mainers access to contraception and in-vitro fertilization. I thank the committee for their time and consideration and once again, ask them to please vote against LD 975.