

Tyler Rukstales
Waterville
LD 975

My name is Tyler Rukstales. I am testifying against LD 975, an act to repeal laws allowing abortion and to criminalize abortion. I am a constituent of Waterville.

I am testifying against this act because abortion is a medical procedure, and to treat it as anything else is inappropriate and dangerous. To take away the right to abortion would put thousands of Mainers in danger. Abortions are not a light decision to be made, and contrary to the belief of those who oppose it, it is not used as a form of birth control. It is often used to save lives. Not only the lives of the women getting the abortion, but the lives of the fetuses that may have predisposed medical conditions that would lower their quality of life. If a pregnancy threatens the life of a woman, she should be allowed to make the choice to save her own body, as an unborn child is not yet aware of its existence, whereas a grown woman, or in certain cases a young child is aware of their own existence and has a life to live. To allow a person who needs an abortion to die in the name of "saving a life", you are effectively taking the life of a living being with the potential and capability gifted to all humans at birth. To try to bestow that same value on a clump of cells lacking a brainstem is absurd. Woman's bodies have been used for many years by men and society at large, whether women were seen only as house slaves to clean and cook, as sex toys to be played with by men, or as machines created with the sole purpose of pumping out children. They deserve to have the right to choose what they do with their own bodies. The value of an unborn fetus should never be put above the value of a human being that has been born and contributed to society at large. You say that you care about women, and yet given a chance to take their ability to choose what happens with their own bodies away from them, you leap on it like a pack of wild dogs. If you care about women so deeply, then show it. Make sure that LD 975 is not passed. Preserve the women of Maine's rights to choose what they do with their bodies. Nobody should be allowed to tell another living person what they can do with their own body. Maine is and has always been a state filled with good hardworking people, people who live fairly and who care for one another. We look out for our communities. Do not take Maine's integrity away from us. If you will not stop this bill from passing to protect women's futures, then you should do so for the integrity of our state and its values of freedom, independence and liberty for all. Protect women's healthcare, and protect the state of Maine from injustice and discrimination.