

Hi there, my name is Elsa Klein, and I am a 17 year old student at Freeport High School. I am speaking against the legislation in front of the judiciary committee today.

There was a large difference between the LD975 bill and the rest of those being presented today and I believe this difference is why it was repealed this morning. The difference is that LD975 entails an extreme change in our state moving away from the long-lasting previous legislations and protections. Especially because Maine is generally a democratic-leaning state, legislation this extreme would face severe difficulties in getting passed. For this reason, legislators with a pro-life agenda will find better success in passing smaller less extreme laws with underlying pro-life connotations. I believe this is what is happening with the proposed legislation today. It is clear through many instances of our country's history that large-scale changes, especially those regarding human rights, require gradual establishment. I support a woman's right to choose due to numerous scientific, societal, and ethical reasons that I lack time to describe now. I believe that although these individual bills do not criminalize abortions, they are small steps in an overall effort to do so. For these reasons, I am against the proposed bills today and believe it is critical to recognize the trends and overall efforts promoted through these bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.