

Madison Shirley

March 28, 2025

Testimony for LD 253, LD 682, and LD 975

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Madison Shirley, and I am from Old Town. I am in opposition to LD 253, An Act to Prevent the Maine Care Program from Covering Abortion Services, LD 682, An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions, and LD 975, An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion.

These bills are exceptionally dangerous, sexist in nature, and take away the bodily autonomy of women in the state of Maine. I am currently 30 weeks pregnant and supporting a woman's right to choose abortion if they so wish. These bills could impact my family and I, in that if I needed a life-saving abortion due to complications, I could potentially die, leaving my 13-month-old daughter motherless. Women across Maine, not being able to receive Abortion care, could seek out dangerous and unsafe practices to accomplish their need for an Abortion, potentially resulting in their death. Abortion is healthcare, and no matter how many states try to remove this knowledge from their people, it will not change the fact that it is. There should be no laws regulating a woman's body, and the government should stay out of the personal healthcare of women. These bills are not pro-life; in fact, they are the opposite. These bills are collectively about gaining control over women's bodies, and the more we allow this, the more bills taking away the personal freedom of people in America will come. Candi Miller, Amber Thurman, Josseli Barnica, and Nevaeh Crain; remember the names of just some of the women who died due to being denied access to Abortion care.