

To the Judiciary Committee and the State of Maine,

My name is Shauna Wenckus. I am a happily married mother of three beautiful and healthy children. We live in Pittston, ME. I own a cleaning business, and I am an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church. I'm about to turn 33 years old, and I'm here today on March 28th, 2025 to make it known that if LD975 passes, it's possible that I won't make it to 34, or to the end of my natural life.

LD975 An Act To Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion and the several other anti-abortion bills that have been introduced this year will impact almost every single woman in Maine in some way or another. The strict language in this proposed bill does not allow for any medically necessary terminations under any circumstance. No exceptions for rape, incest, or simply not being fit or able to have a child. Once fetal personhood is established, it is possible that a person like me could likely do everything right, and still be left to die in the event of a pregnancy complication, leaving behind my living and breathing children in order to make a point about abortion.

As I stated in my first few sentences, I am a happily married mother of three live children. They are 5, 7, and 14 this year. Five years ago, I had a tubal ligation procedure performed to avoid any accidental pregnancies. Though this procedure is 99% effective in preventing unwanted pregnancies, about 1 in every 100 women will get pregnant within 10 years of a tubal ligation. Of those women, 33% will result in ectopic pregnancies. An ectopic pregnancy is not viable under any circumstance, and failing to terminate the pregnancy will result in rupture of the fallopian tube, which is followed by internal bleeding and death of the mother. Ectopic pregnancy is just one of many pregnancy complications which require a medically necessary termination of pregnancy. I don't believe God wants women to die in the name of saving an embryo, which would still be lost regardless.

I strongly oppose LD975, and believe that to pass this bill would result in many preventable maternal deaths. To do so would not only endanger the lives of mothers, but leave many children *without* their mothers. I also strongly oppose all of LD975's counterparts which have also been introduced into review:

LD253 An Act To Prevent the Mainecare Program From Covering Abortion Services

LD1007 An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug Induced Abortion

And any others I may not have been given knowledge of yet. I thank the committee for their time today and urge them to please do not pass this bill, for it may someday equate to a death sentence for many women like me.

Thank you.

Shauna Marie Wenckus,

A small business owner, ordained minister, and mother of three.