

3/28/25

Alexis Ritcheson

In opposition to LD975

Dear members of the judiciary committee,

My name is Alexis Ritcheson, and I am a 10th grade student at Freeport High School. I stand here today in opposition to the LD975 bill. While my peers sit in our American Government and Economics class, I testify before you regarding the fundamental right this bill looks to strip away from girls and women just like me. This bill is constructed around the claim that life begins at conception. Therefore, the termination at any point in a pregnancy by external forces, is deemed murder. Scientifically, we know this not to be true. This proposed idea is often derived from religious concepts based purely on interpretation. While I respect and acknowledge one's religious values, I do not believe it has any place in law. Specifically, in laws concerning an individual's isolated medical wellbeing. Our current law recognizes a woman's right to choose up until the fetus is determined viable by a licensed medical practitioner. These guidelines were revised in 2023 to allow women the right to choose while still maintaining regulations to preserve a scientifically viable fetus when not at detriment to the mother. I can not support regression on these laws. When my mother imagined a life for me, she did not picture a life spent fighting for the rights she already had. I, a 15 year old student should be planning for college, not planning a speech to fight a battle already fought. So I urge you all now to take into consideration the true intentions behind the LD975 bill. Is it to preserve their perception of life, or to preserve their political agendas aimed at once again controlling women.

Thank you for your time.