

*Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Barbara Cray of Westport Island and I am here to testify today in opposition to LD 795 975*

An act to repeal laws allowing abortion and to criminalize abortion

This bill is cruel.

This bill is utterly devoid of even an ounce of humanity.

This bill is a meant to control women, deprive women of their rights, and bring about a police state against women because they have a reproductive system.

Now, I did at first wonder if I should testify today, because it is highly unlikely this bill will pass, and if it did the Governor will veto it. So its just republicans being republicans, right?

But no.

This is not ok.

It is not ok to submit this inhumane bill to a respected legislative body in 2025 that wants to criminalize women making decision over their bodies. We have to speak out. We cannot normalize legislators bringing horrendous bills against women each session. It needs to stop.

And it is embarrassing that we have legislators that do this. What are girls growing up today to think about the legislative process. If they are doing this to scare women, then we won't let that happen without protesting either.

So what do the sponsors of this bill want to do? The take a definition in the criminal laws of Maine and add to it. (17-A MRSA §2) So to the pre-existing definition of "individual" as meaning as a human being, they add that a human being includes a human being beginning at the moment of conception. And so now the Maine criminal statute that sets forth that a person is guilty of murder if the person intentionally of knowingly causes of the death of another human being (17-A MRSA §201) would include a human being at the moment of conception. And the sentence for murder is imprisonment for not less than 25 years.

But wait, the sponsors also repeal the crimes of aggravated assault and domestic violence assault on a pregnant person.

Now perhaps in proposing this bill the sponsors were not cognizant of science, which seems apparent from the bill. Now the science is that a woman can only become pregnant when a man's sperm enters her vagina and go on their travels, and there are millions of them. So women are put in the position to be the only one of the two needed to fertilize an egg to commit a crime if a pregnancy occurs and they want to consider an abortion. Even in the first 120 days when the fetus has no viability outside the womb. The woman is legally required to keep that fetus in her body and until birth under threat of incarceration.

Well you males, you may want to consider the viability of your sex life. If the product of doing it makes something that can't be undone, and there is no penalty upon you for ejaculating your sperm into a woman, the consequences may not be to your liking.

So under this proposed bill a woman is forced into nine months of pregnancy and bearing a child, or jail. This is even worse than the laws of centuries gone by.

There is a huge cost to women. They may be the only one that will support the child, since there is no simultaneous criminal law to require that male whose sperm resulted in the pregnancy support the child. Unless the celibacy option is successful, women will be unable to work, there will be children living in poverty.

And why do you want this law? Your religious beliefs? You personally held religious beliefs cannot be the foundation for a law in the United States. You can hold your belief, and the government cannot interfere with that. But the government cannot be used to make your religious belief a law that must be followed. Constitutional separation of church and state.

And what about when a pregnancy threatens the health of the mother? No exceptions,

Just want people to feel fear, so no, that is not ok

Banning birth control

Woman essentially a child factory

Take women back to ancient times when they were just chattel. Now they are a baby factory because they cannot legally make decisions about a pregnancy.

You men have had it your way for centuries, now it's our turn.

Here we are, standing on the brink of destruction

Enough is enough is enough is enough

I know what we're after

Put a woman in charge, put a woman in charge, put a woman in charge, of her body

Thus this English common law on abortion as a crime is clearly part of a systemic political and societal order to subjugate and control women.

to rely on and claim as legitimate authority obsolete historical legal principles that were part of structural sexism institutionalized in Anglo-Saxon laws and brought to and incorporated into American society and government pursuant to which women were subjugated and had no rights in society.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton for the first women's rights convention at in Seneca Falls in 1848 wherein she writes: "[t]he history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of absolute tyranny over her."