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LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Maggie Amann. I am from Scarborough, Maine, and I am a student at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. I am reaching out to you all today to vehemently oppose LD 975: An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion.

This bill is dangerous. This bill is about control, not protection. It is well known that abortion bans do not reduce the number of abortions – they only reduce the number of safe abortions. People’s lives will be put at risk. Doctors will be afraid to protect and treat their patients. Individuals will be stripped of their fundamental right to make decisions about their own bodies. I will be stripped of my fundamental right to make decisions about my own body.

This is a body that I’ve lived in for 21 years. It’s a body that I have fought to love. It’s a body that has endured more than I ever thought it could, whether that be running a marathon or speaking up when silence was endorsed. This is a body that has carried the weight of experiences I never asked for and wouldn’t wish upon my worst enemy. Experiences you can never understand unless they happen to you. The thought that someone else – some politician, some stranger – could have the power to decide what happens to my body when those things happen is devastating and unacceptable.

In the United States, 1 in 6 women – nearly 17% – will experience an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. That number is an extremely conservative estimate. It does not account for other forms of sexual violence. It does not account for unreported cases. And I know, I’ve been taught that “rape” is a dirty word. Something we should whisper, something we should soften for the comfort of others. But it does happen. And statistically, we all know someone it has happened to.

Now, because we’re speaking in odds – since some of us refuse to see this as a human rights issue – let’s do the math. The odds of pregnancy from rape are around 5%. That means that for every 1,000 rapes, 50 pregnancies result. And 1,000 rapes is not some abstract number – it happens roughly every two days in this country.

Fifty people, every two days. Fifty people who never consented to what happened to them, and are now being told they must carry the consequence of someone else’s violence.

How would you feel, if that person was your daughter? Your sister? Your best friend? How would you feel if it was you? If your body was no longer yours, but a constant reminder of the worst thing that has ever happened to you? And the result of it lived inside of you in a physical way in addition to the emotional agony that will spend years to overcome? If the law told you that your trauma wasn’t enough, that your rights mattered less than that of your attacker?

This is exactly what this bill does. It does not only strip people of their choice – it takes away dignity, autonomy, and any chance of healing. It tells survivors that they don’t matter, and never will. That their pain is not worthy of consideration. That their futures are not in their own control.

If you support this bill, that is the message you are sending. In a world where the president of this country has repeatedly said things about women like, “You have to treat them like shit,” and “Grab them by the pussy,” it becomes painfully clear that the message is this: our worth, our rights, and our bodies are negotiable.

This bill is a step further toward erasing the rights of women. This is a heinous act of hatred, ignorance, and disrespect for any bodily autonomy that we possess. I urge you to reject LD 975 and protect the fundamental rights of all people in this state. This is a state that I love, a place that I have lived in all of my life, a place I hope to raise children in. But I will not fear that my daughters will grow up in a world where their bodies are not their own.

If you pass this bill, you are telling future generations that their rights can be taken away, that they don’t deserve to make decisions about their own bodies, that autonomy is a negotiable thing.

Please reject LD 975. For bodily autonomy, the safety of women, and the future of
Maine.
Thank you for your time,
Maggie Amann