



March 28th, 2025

Testimony in opposition to LD 253,682, and 975:

Good Afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Aluel Athian, and I'm a college student in Maine. I'm also a Legislative Fellow at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led movement fighting for human dignity and a livable future for all of Maine.

I urge you to oppose these anti-abortion bills that aim to deny women and girls their human right to reproductive autonomy and healthcare. Abortion care IS Reproductive healthcare and women deserve full autonomy in each decision about their health.

Pregnancy is inherently dangerous by nature, and those dangers are exacerbated by social and systemic misogyny and other forms of bigotry. Poverty, lack of education, and unstable home environments can often lead to unplanned pregnancies creating cycles of financial and social disenfranchisement especially for minorities. Nobody should be forced to deal with this kind of financial, social, and emotional stress.

These types of bills create a path to criminalization for pregnancy outcomes. As seen in many other states where women have been charged with "manslaughter" or for disposing of the fetal remains in a way that law enforcement or prosecutors deemed improper.

Abortion bans don't stop abortions; they just disenfranchise and kill women as shown by the situation in Texas, where maternal mortality spiked by 56% after Roe was overturned according to the Gender Equity Policy Institute.

Women should have the right to choose whether or not they want to continue their pregnancy despite anyone else's personal or religious beliefs. Decisions about pregnancy, abortion services, and ANY other healthcare should be made by patients with the support of their educated doctors—not politicians.

By scrapping these bills and standing firm in a pro-choice stance, Maine can continue to take steps for women's rights. I urge you to oppose this legislation.

Thank You for your time,

Aluel Athian