



March 28th, 2025

Testimony in opposition to LD 253,682, 1107, and 1105:

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

My name is Aluel Athian, and I'm a college student in Waterville, 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 LD 253,682, 1107, and 1105, these anti-abortion bills 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 bigotry. Healthcare is a system riddled with classism and racism making it inaccessible to many, especially poor people who can't afford necessary medications, leading to worsening health problems. While the mortality rate for Black women in the USA is three times higher than that of white women, underscoring the systemic injustice and devastating impact of these inequalities. Poverty, lack of education, and unstable home environments can often lead to healthcare issues and unplanned pregnancies that create cycles of financial and social disenfranchisement. These challenges disproportionately harm young people who are already immensely vulnerable due to the covid pandemic and overall societal instability.

Women should have the right to choose whether or not they want to continue their pregnancy despite anyone else's religious beliefs. Decisions about pregnancy, abortion services, and ANY other healthcare should be made by patients with the support of their educated doctors not by politicians, men, or religion. Specifically regarding LD 887, this bill seeks to restrict access to medical abortions by limiting how healthcare professionals can administer abortion medication. THIS decision should be left to the professionals, not politicians.

Legislation of this nature paves the way for the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes as seen in many southern states. Abortion bans and restrictions don't stop abortions; they just kill women as shown by the situation in Texas, where Sepsis rates during 2nd-trimester miscarriages soared and maternal mortality spiked by 56%, after Roe was overturned.

These anti-choice bills reduce women to second-class citizens, valuing their capacity to create life over their autonomy and well-being. Legislators should trust doctors and instead focus on supporting accessibility in education, food equity, healthcare, childcare, and housing, and creating conditions that foster healthy lives and homes.

I urge you to oppose these bills. Thank You for your time. Aluel Athian