

Amber Bakken
Portland
LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Amber Bakken, I live in Portland. I am writing in opposition to LD 975, An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion, which strips Mainers of essential reproductive rights and endangers the well-being of women and families across Maine. Abortion bans do not reduce the number of abortions; they reduce the number of safe abortions. They put people's lives at risk, criminalize doctors and strip individuals of their fundamental right to make private medical decisions. Every pregnancy is different, and so is every person facing one. Some pregnancies are nonviable. Some put the pregnant person's life at risk. Some occur under devastating circumstances, such as rape or incest. And sometimes, a person simply is not ready or able to carry a pregnancy to term. None of these deeply personal decisions should be dictated by the government. The United States place such a fundamental value in the freedom of all individuals and the protection of this freedom. By banning the right for some of these individuals to own their bodies and thereby choose to have an abortion or not goes against this core value and all that the United States stands for. If lawmakers genuinely cared about reducing abortions, they would expand access to contraception, comprehensive sex education, affordable childcare and maternal healthcare. But this bill does none of that. Instead, it punishes people for their circumstances and removes their bodily autonomy. I urge you to reject this cruel and dangerous legislation. The government has no place in personal medical decisions. Let people make these choices with their doctors, their families and their own conscience—not with politicians.