

Erin Breau
Winthrop
LD 253

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Erin Breau, resident of Winthrop, Kennebec County. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to oppose LD 253 - An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services

Abortion is healthcare. Restricting access to safe and legal abortions only increases women's health risks, which impacts families as well. "The criminalisation of abortion has a compounding impact on those who are already marginalised," (Amnesty International, 2024). We must protect all Mainer's rights to make personal healthcare decisions.

It is essential that Maine's commitment to and protection of legal abortion healthcare services remains in place. The 2020 Turnaway Study details negative impacts affecting women denied abortion healthcare. Adverse effects include: serious complications during pregnancy and delivery; increased chance of staying with an abusive partner; increased poverty; lasting negative health impacts; and anxiety, depression, or suicidal ideations.

I urge you to protect Maine women and families by voting 'ought not to pass' for LD 253.

Thank you for your consideration,
Erin Breau

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/sexual-and-reproductive-rights/abortion-facts/>

<https://www.ansirh.org/research/ongoing/turnaway-study>