

Joanne Cole
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LD 975

I urge all members of the committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on the array of bills that undermine access to abortion care and make Maine less safe for women: LD 253, LD 682, LD 886, LD 887, LD 975, LD 1007, LD 1154.

I'm older and am now seeing my daughters and their generation making choices about where to live, where to work, and even just where to travel based on different states' laws on reproductive rights. It is literally a matter of life and death, as news of maternal deaths in states with restrictive abortion laws have shown us all.

I've been proud to be a Mainer in a state that has stood up for women and treated them as capable and the ones best informed about their bodies, their families, and their needs. Maine has also stood up for medical professionals, respecting their training, medical judgment and knowledge of their patients.

Maine women, with the guidance of their doctors and medical teams, should be the ones making these critical health decisions, as Maine law currently allows. Please oppose any and all efforts to erect barriers to abortion and reproductive rights in Maine.

Thank you.

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