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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Testimony in Opposition to LD 253, LD 682, LD 886, LD 887, LD 975, LD 1007, and LD 1154

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

March 28, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Mattie Daughtry and I am proud to serve as the President of the Maine State Senate, where I am honored to represent Senate District 23, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island and part of Yarmouth.

I am here in strong opposition to the bills under consideration today: LD 253, LD 682, LD 886, LD 887, LD 975, LD 1007, and LD 1154.

Each of these bills attempt to chip away at, or completely eliminate, a pregnant person's right to reproductive healthcare. They aim to dismantle the well established laws Maine has instituted to ensure safe and legal abortions. Moreover, these bills ignore that Mainer's have made how they feel about these issues clear.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court revoked federal protections for abortion in 2022, Maine voters have twice elected pro-reproductive rights champions to the State House. This is a clear mandate from the people of Maine, and these bills are out of step with the will of our citizens. They do not reflect the values of our state, which include justice, equity, respect for individual autonomy, and the right to healthcare.

Abortion is healthcare. It is essential, it is needed, and it is a basic right. Access to abortion must be legal, available, and affordable. We must ensure that everyone, regardless of where they live or their circumstances, can access the healthcare they need, when they need it.

There is a human cost of restrictive abortion laws. To date, 19 states have implemented abortion bans, and these bans have had devastating consequences. In these states, people are afraid to help their loved ones access care. Doctors are left to choose between saving lives and risking their jobs. And worst, pregnant people have died because they were unable to access healthcare when politicians chose to intervene where they did not belong.

At the heart of these bills is a simple truth: politicians are unqualified to make personal, private, and deeply complex medical decisions about pregnancy and reproductive health. No politician, regardless of their position or party, is more qualified than the patient and their trusted medical provider to determine the best course of action for their health.

This is a deeply personal issue, and it is one that should be guided by medical expertise, not political agendas.

We must also recognize that this issue is not just about policy—it is about dignity. It is about the health and well-being of our families, and the protection of our fundamental freedoms. The proposed bills would strip away essential rights, rights that are integral to ensuring justice, equity, and respect for every person in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to stand with the people of Maine, stand with the values of freedom, autonomy, justice, and health, and reject these harmful and regressive bills.

Thank you.