

Electronically Submitted Testimony Public Hearing on
LD 975 – [3/28/2024]

Delivered by Jacob Domas

Representative Griffin, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jacob Domas residing in New Gloucester Maine, and I am here to strongly oppose LD 975, which seeks to repeal Maine's existing abortion laws and criminalize abortion. This bill is an extreme government overreach into private medical decisions and disregards the rights, health, and well-being of Maine residents.

Five Reasons to Oppose LD 975:

1. It Violates Personal Freedom and Bodily Autonomy

The government should not have the ability to force someone to carry a pregnancy against their will. Every citizen has a fundamental right to make their own medical decisions, including that regarding their autonomy during a pregnancy. LD 975 strips away that right and imposes the government's will over personal health choices.

2. It Threatens Women's Health and Lives

Abortion has remained essential healthcare for decades. From my view, banning abortions does not stop abortions; it only makes them more dangerous. History and data have shown us time and time again that when abortion becomes restricted, individuals seek unsafe alternatives, leading to increased maternal mortality and health complications. Maine has a strong record of providing safe, legal abortion care—LD 975 would undo decades of progress in protecting reproductive health.

3. It Risks Lifetime Pain for Survivors of Rape and Incest

LD 975 would force victims of rape and/or incest cases to carry pregnancies to term, compounding their trauma. No one should be required by law to bear a child resulting from violence. A compassionate society does not force victims to endure additional suffering through forced pregnancy.

4. It Disproportionately Hurts Low-Income and Rural Communities

Wealthy individuals will always have the means to travel to states where abortion remains legal, continuing the

“issue”. However, those in rural areas or under financial restrictions will have no options. This bill creates an unjust system where access to reproductive care is determined by income and geography, further marginalizing vulnerable populations.

5. It Ignores the Will of Maine Voters and Medical Experts

The majority of Mainers support abortion rights. We have seen this for years. Maine’s existing laws ensure that decisions about abortion are made between patients and doctors, not politicians. Medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, oppose abortion bans because they interfere with best medical practices. LD 975 substitutes ideology for science and disregards the expertise of healthcare providers. And does so at the risk of your constituents.

Conclusion

LD 975 is a dangerous and unnecessary attempt to strip away fundamental rights. Maine’s current laws protect both the health of individuals and their right to make private medical decisions. I urge this committee to reject

this bill and stand with the majority of Mainers who believe in reproductive freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jacob Domas