

Chloe Dowley
Freeport
LD 975

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To my fellow Mainers, generously serving as elected officials in our amazing state:
Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony.

My name is Chloe Dowley. I am a resident of Freeport. I am writing today to oppose LD 253, 682, 886, 887, 975, 1007, 1154.

Reproductive health care is an essential part of health access for women, who make up more than half of our state's population. Each of these bills seeks to limit women's access to critical health care services, which need to remain free and accessible to all, regardless of income, age, and geographic location within our state.

Maine is already struggling to support the children that currently live here. In our state in recent years there were reportedly between 10 and 20% of children living in poverty, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Those who really care about humanity should focus their efforts on caring for the babies that have already been born, by supporting funding for affordable housing, access to fresh, nutritious food, quality childcare availability, and education that is respectful for all.

While I appreciate the desire to protect human life, I would urge all the supporters of these Legislative Documents to put their efforts into improving the quality of life for the humans that are already among us, and create greater access to affordable health care, particularly pre-natal care, for Maine women, to support them if they choose to have a baby. Another useful action to protect human life would be to provide comprehensive health education to all Maine students and make contraception readily available to all, regardless of income.

Thank you for reviewing this testimony. Once again, I urge you to oppose ALL of these LDs that seek to limit access to essential health care services for women.