

Laura Hearst  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 682

Senator Carney and Rep Boyer,

My name is Laura Hearst. I live in Cape Elizabeth, Maine and I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on all of the bills being discussed today, March 28th, 2025: LD253, LD682, LD886, LD975, LD1007, and LD1154.

This is my first time testifying before legislature and I am sure it will not be my last. I am an anesthesia provider who practices at a large multidisciplinary medical center. I am a mother, a wife, and a daughter. I have personal and professional experiences that support my beliefs that a woman's body is her own. Government should never makes decisions for a woman and what she chooses to do with her own body. Just last week, I was involved in a patients case where a 19 year old woman came in my place of employment for an elective abortion of a 21 week old fetus. I was to provide the anesthesia for this woman. These procedures have always hit me hard, as I had struggled for many years to get pregnant. And while trying to get pregnant and failing year after year, I had to provide unbiased, high level anesthesia care to young women who came in for elective abortions. Do you know what got me through those procedures? The gratitude that I had that these women were free to make their own choices on what to do with their own bodies. Today, more than ever, that freedom is threatened. It feels like it is not only knocking at our door but pushing through.

When I went to meet the 19 year old women who I treated last week, to bring her into surgery, she was teary-eyed and shaking. She was clearly suffering and had been for months with the weight of this decision. She did not need people to judge or question her about such a personal decision. She needed compassion and support. I felt privileged to be a part of the health care team that helped her through her suffering.

A woman's journey with reproduction is very intimate. It is a journey to be shared with a trusted health care provider and not a government official.

Please join me in allowing ALL women to make their own personal, ethical, responsible, and loving decisions with their trusted health care provider about their own bodies and lives. I ask you to please vote Ought Not to Pass on LD253, LD682, LD886, LD975, LD1007, and LD1154

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Laura Hearst  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine