

Ilo Holdridge
Cape Elizabeth and Bowdoin College
LD 975

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Ilo Holdridge, I live in Cape Elizabeth, and I am currently a student at Bowdoin College. I am writing in absolute disdain and extreme opposition of LD:975 to oppose the act to repeal laws allowing abortion and criminalize abortion.

In the case of freedom, a key pillar in the United States, banning and criminalizing abortion does not in any way seek to uphold this value. No one person, governor, teacher, lawmaker, police officer, or individual should be allowed to dictate the way that women treat their own bodies. As I am sure you all know, banning abortions does not reduce the amount of abortions, it simply reduces the amount of safe abortions and women that are unjustly harmed. I truly believe that banning abortions is a statement against the freedom of women across the world. Quite often, pregnancy can put the life of someone at risk. I beg you all to take a moment to truly understand the meaning of not allowing someone who is unable or unwilling to carry a pregnancy to term especially under cases of rape or incest.

As a young man growing up in Maine, I have always been proud of the way that our legal system has fought and advocated for the women in my life. But now I am scared. I am truly scared about the degree of control being exerted in all aspects of the government. I am scared for my girl friend, for my cousins, for my friends, and for my mother. It is absolutely unacceptable to pass LD:975 and restrict the rights of women across the state. By passing this bill, you jeopardize so many of the lives and the freedom of women in my life.

Similar to so many other medical rights that most of us are given, abortions should be provided at no cost, with the utmost levels of privacy and protection for doctors. If lawmakers truly cared about reducing abortions rather than restricting women's rights, they would focus on increasing access to contraception, sex education, child care, and maternal health care. LD:975 does not do that. It punishes people for their circumstances and removes bodily autonomy. I urge you to listen to the people and uphold freedom and bodily autonomy that the great state of Maine has stood on for so long. Please do not let me and us down. We rely on you to protect us and protect the women in our lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely Ilo Holdridge.