

March 28, 2025

Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Carmen LaHaye, I am 18 years old and a resident of Ellsworth. I am writing to you to ask that you oppose all of the bills you're hearing today that will limit Maine women's rights to abortion; LD 253, LD 682, LD 886, LD 887, LD 975, LD 1007, and LD 1154.

You're going to hear from a lot of experts today. And also a lot of people who have strong feelings about what other people should do if/when a pregnancy occurs. I'm here to say that as a young woman who has had my share of issues regarding reproductive health, that it is between me and my doctor. No one else. I benefit from MaineCare covering all my health costs, and I am very grateful that my mom and I have that health insurance, because we would either be in a very different place financially or I would have not been able to go see my doctor when I needed to.

A part of the reason that I am choosing to stay in Maine for college, and plan to build a life and career here after, is because of our healthcare protections. In states all around the country women are in positions where they are in danger because their states have taken away abortion protections. Myself and many other Maine women are very lucky and grateful that Maine has the protections it does.

As a young woman I urge you to oppose all of these bills that would restrict women's rights to a necessary healthcare treatment and privacy.

Thank you for reading.

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