

Elizabeth Matheson
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LD 253

To our esteemed Judiciary Committee:

I am writing as a lifelong Maine resident who vehemently opposes LD 253. One in three Mainers is covered under MaineCare. Limiting basic health care coverage like abortion access is putting an undue financial and logistical burden on Maine people, particularly low-income Maine people who access MaineCare. Additionally, abortion is a fundamental right of healthcare - it is a medical procedure that is accessed by millions of people each year for reasons that do not need to be legitimized or debated in a judicial hall, a legislative session, or a congressional hearing. These are medical procedures and decisions that are made between a person and their medical provider.

As someone who has had to terminate a desperately wanted, but doomed, pregnancy due to genetic conditions that precluded any chance of fetal survival, I hope you never have to sit with a genetic counselor and hear the words "pregnancy not viable". And then I hope you never have to be denied coverage for a simple, safe, common medical procedure that preserves your ability to reproduce.

But more importantly - I hope you never have to write your representatives, demanding them to see your body as your own, forcing you to write out some of your most painful memories, and plead with them to simply allow medical conversations to stay in the medical office and request that the state health insurance cover those common procedures.