

Heidi Nydam  
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LD 975

Hello Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Heidi Nydam, a female student at Bates College and a huge appreciator of the great state of Maine, where I have to come to feel safe and at home after living here for the last 4 school years and 2 summers.

I am writing, begging, to ask you to please consider opposing LD 975, as it criminalizes abortions and grants legal personhood to fetuses, and therefore puts countless women's lives and reproductive rights at risk in favor of a group of cells. There are many reasons why someone might require an abortion, and it is not the state's responsibility to determine the validity of these reasons, but instead should enable women the ability to feel as if they can provide for themselves and protect their futures however they see fit. Criminalizing abortions will not prevent fetuses from being harmed, it will just ensure that women are also harmed in the process. As a young woman, I am genuinely fearful of losing the right to make personal decisions about my own body, for my own health, and knowing a few friends who have had to make the very difficult decision to abort, I can assure you that most people who abort do not do so as part of a game or as an "easy" form of contraceptive. There are extenuating circumstances, but abortions allowed them to continue surviving.

Please please please do not criminalize abortion. Think of your daughters' futures.