

Sophia Richter
Kittery
LD 682

Sophia Richter and Connor Buckley
Kittery, ME
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LD 682 - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions
I testify against this bill

I support the 2023 law that protected late-term abortions when a doctor deems it necessary and do not support a bill that would restrict the time periods when a person can receive abortion care. I am concerned by the bill's provision to reestablish criminal penalties for performing abortions after "viability" because it could adversely affect medical professionals' judgement and the capacity of healthcare providers to do their jobs effectively. If they are afraid of being criminally penalized for doing what they consider to be necessary for the wellbeing of their patient, this may result in a structural disincentive to provide other abortion care as well. While I agree that abortion providers should prioritize the "life or health of the mother", there are many reasons why someone would seek late term abortion care, such as when the fetus is diagnosed with a mortal anomaly or when the physician deems an abortion necessary. I support a Maine legislature that advocates for medical professionals to make informed decisions. Additionally, I am concerned by this bill's provision to require reports of abortions be made to the state on the race, marital status and level of educations of the person receiving the abortion. While I don't understand the full extent of personal and demographic data that the State collects on healthcare services, these three categories of information could be used to target patients and to dissuade people from seeking the care that they need.