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LD 975

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LD 975 - An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion
I testify against this bill

I do not support any legislation that would give the government, give the State of Maine, the right to define "human being". This is because the definition of "human being" is a deeply philosophical, moral, and political project - one that has been debated since the beginning of human civilization - which means that there is absolutely no objective definition. If the State takes a position on this, it would be informed by a philosophy, a set of morals, and/or a political project that would reject the same of many of its citizens. While I completely agree that everyone has a right to live according to their own set of philosophies, morals, and political positions, I do not support a Maine State legislature that uses such subjectivity to determine the quality, type, and means of health care services. LD 975 provision to define "human being" at the moment of conception onwards does this very thing. Not only do I personally disagree with the insinuation that an embryo or fetus should be granted the full set of rights of legal personhood equivalent to the pregnant person, but in order for such a bill to be instituted, many other legal protections to pregnant people would have to be repealed. I do not support the proposed bill's repeal of "crimes of elevated aggravated assault or domestic violence elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person". Additionally, I do not support the effective removal of references to abortion from diverse state statutes, including those regarding reproductive health care services, family planning, and medical records. This bill would not only remove the legal provisions for people to receive abortions but it would attack many other related reproductive health care services, including an attack on miscarriages. This is a direct assault on women's health care and our access to it, and on the health care providers who specialize in giving women these services. Expanding the definition of "person" to include conception and removing the legal protections of abortion-related services would not only effectively criminalize abortion in Maine but it is an outstanding assault on my bodily autonomy and my reproductive rights.