

LD 253 An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortions

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Ruggiero. I live in Cape Elizabeth. I urge you not to pass LD 253. Mainers should have abortion care covered under MaineCare.

Access to an abortion and therefore, healthcare, shouldn't be dictated by income. It is a service that should be available to any seeker and MaineCare should continue to cover abortion services. For those who are the most economically insecure, stripping away the option to make choices about family planning seems antithetical to creating stable, healthy environments for residents of Maine to thrive, especially considering ~50% of those seeking abortions in Maine have already given birth.

Is this an issue of forcing taxpayers' money to be used to support things they might not believe in? Many people pay taxes knowing their money will be used in ways they don't agree with. Abortion is no different. Additionally, over 64% of Mainers support abortion. If this is about killing a 'person' then sanctioning spending for war efforts is, by volume, way less moral. And now thanks to Supreme Court rulings, our money can be used to support families sending their kids to religious institutions that could directly oppose other's religious faith and beliefs. Our taxes must be used to support a diverse, plural society to provide options for the many not restrictions due to the few.

I urge you, please do not vote to pass LD 253. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Ruggiero
Cape Elizabeth
LD 253

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Ruggiero. I live in Cape Elizabeth. I urge you not to pass LD 253. Mainers should have abortion care covered under MaineCare.

Access to an abortion and therefore, healthcare, shouldn't be dictated by income. It is a service that should be available to any seeker and MaineCare should continue to cover abortion services. For those who are the most economically insecure, stripping away the option to make choices about family planning seems antithetical to creating stable, healthy environments for residents of Maine to thrive, especially considering ~50% of those seeking abortions in Maine have already given birth.

Is this an issue of forcing taxpayers' money to be used to support things they might not believe in? Many people pay taxes knowing their money will be used in ways they don't agree with. Abortion is no different. Additionally, over 64% of Mainers support abortion. If this is about killing a 'person' then sanctioning spending for war efforts is, by volume, way less moral. And now thanks to Supreme Court rulings, our money can be used to support families sending their kids to religious institutions that could directly oppose other's religious faith and beliefs. Our taxes must be used to support a diverse, plural society to provide options for the many not restrictions due to the few. I urge you, please do not vote to pass LD 253. Thank you for your time.