

## LD 975 An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Ruggiero. I live in Cape Elizabeth. I urge you not to pass LD 975.

As of May 2024, 84% of people nationally support the legalization of abortion (Gallup Poll). Of that 51% believe abortion is ok in any or most circumstances. In Maine, 64% believe abortion should be legal (NPR). Repealing laws allowing abortion or criminalizing abortion is in direct contradiction to the will of the majority of Mainers.

There is also audacity in this bill, presuming to be the authority on when life begins by forcing a religious concept of personhood and defining 'human being' as starting at the moment of conception. This conflicts with myriad religious doctrine, such as Judaism, as well as personal beliefs. This should deem the bill unpassable due to preventing other religions from practicing according to their doctrine.

No person or law can compel another person to give their body in part or in whole to secure the survival of another. When you force a pregnant person to carry a fetus to term it disregards the consent they've withdrawn from the fetus to use their body. It affords the pregnant person fewer rights than a corpse as a person's wishes for their final resting state is more honored than the wishes of a living person who no longer wishes to be pregnant. It assigns value, offering the fetus, the mass of cells, more rights than the pregnant person, who is now relegated to the status of host and organ donor. Choice shouldn't be stripped away from the individual because of someone else's wishes. The only decision that matters is that of the person seeking abortion. The only involvement of the government should be to ensure there are safe means to obtain the necessary healthcare.

Abortions are necessary. They help the people who are having them. They help society. I urge you, please do not vote to pass LD 975. Preserve the right to abortion care. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Ruggiero  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 975

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