

Jaidyn Stultz
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Regarding The Judiciary Committee
March 28, 2025

My name is Jaidyn Stultz and I am a student, currently in my junior year at Freeport High School. I am testifying on how the act to remove legal abortion in Maine, could make it difficult for girls around me to achieve success.

I recently had an assignment to write an essay about the American Dream. The prompt was, "Is the American Dream still alive today?" To this prompt, my answer was yes. I have optimism that the American Dream is in fact still alive today but it shines light on new areas. It doesn't focus on wealth and material goals, but instead education and the freedom to choose what to do with one's life. To choose if one wanted to be a doctor or a botanist, to choose what to have for dinner, and to choose whether to have a child or not. With this bill you take away the freedom of choice from so many women. You not only take away their choice of whether to have the baby or not, but then it limits their choices afterwards as well. Many studies show that enrollment in college is much lower after having an unplanned child before the age of eighteen.

In just a few months, almost one hundred girls from Freeport High School will be walking across a stage and receiving their diplomas. Although I don't know who, I would bet you that at least one of them has had an abortion and it has allowed them to get their diploma and walk across that stage in front of all their family and friends. Without access to abortion young girls, who are only in high school would struggle to stay in school and thrive due the need to take care of the child and pay for childcare. For so long Maine has felt like a safe space to so many, almost distant from many of America's major issues. Maine protects nature and wildlife, and stays away from mass shootings and bans on abortion. However in the past several years with one of the largest shootings in the country happening in Lewiston, and Acadia National Park rangers being laid off, I have seen that Maine struggles with these issues as well. Enacting this bill to make abortion illegal would not only limit the choices women have and make their education difficult, but it would also expose Maine to more of the mainstream issues we are seeing in the country, like infringement of women's rights.

I am asking you to vote against this bill, to vote in favor of young women all around the state who got pregnant due to unfortunate circumstances and wish to live the life that they choose, without the surveillance of the government. I ask you to vote against this bill in order to protect women who are in high school and college dreaming big dreams, who without abortion would not be able to reach their dreams.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and I hope you will consider my point of view when you take your vote.