

Kathryn Yingst  
Cape Neddick  
LD 975

Dear Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Kathryn Yingst and I am a resident of Cape Neddick, ME. I am writing in opposition to LD 975 - An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion.

Body autonomy is a fundamental right. For far too long in our nation's history, politicians have sought to control what decisions a woman might make regarding her own body. And I use the word 'control' intentionally. Anti abortion bills such as this one claim they are 'pro-life' while completely undermining a woman's self determination, stripping her of her right to make healthcare decisions in consultation with her own medical doctors, and goes as far as to legalize prosecution for choices she makes regarding her own welfare. This bill is about controlling women. No man would accept any form of legislation that infringed upon his body autonomy, and of course we have no laws that do so. Yet some in our society see fit to attempt to limit a woman's personhood.

And that is the irony here, in the bill's attempt to claim fetal 'personhood' beginning at conception. It's proponents would have us believe that there are instant and complete rights that should be bestowed upon cells dividing while denying the rights of the actual living, breathing person without whom the cells cannot otherwise continue to develop into an embryo. It is insulting and ludicrous.

Maine would be much better served by legislation seeking to improve the lives of children in our state who suffer due to lack of food, healthcare, and/or educational resources. It is unfortunately too often the case that politicians are pro (forced) birth rather than legislating as if they are truly pro-life. To be pro-life would necessitate that we offer funding and resources to children in feeding them, providing medical care, and educating them. It's telling that few politicians seem eager to provide these services.

As a woman of Maine, I reject the attempted infringement on my right to self determination. I whole heartedly oppose LD 975.

Thank you.