

Maxim Zakian
Biddeford
LD 975

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out today about LD 975, a legislative attempt to ban abortion. As a resident of Maine, I wanted to express my opposition to this bill. On top of the fact that I support reproductive rights, I strongly oppose the bill's proposals to:

1. Force people to report whenever they suffer a miscarriage - I think it's pretty self-explanatory why this is sinister. A miscarriage is one of the worst days in a person's life. Imagine having to then answer questions or file paperwork for the sole purpose of lawmakers ensuring you did not intentionally miscarry.

Additionally, reporting miscarriage feels like the first step in restricting life-saving measures for people experiencing ectopic pregnancies or other harmful cases that require an abortion. This has led to deaths in Texas (including one woman who miscarried and was then died after being forced to carry the dead child to term), and would lead to deaths in Maine if implemented.

2. Eliminate the confidentiality of patients and healthcare providers performing abortions - This must not be removed, as both groups are subject to death threats and harassment. If you would like proof of that, you can stand outside the Planned Parenthood in Portland for a week.

3. Reduce criminal statutes for assault against pregnant women - When I originally read about this on social media, I figured this claim was just sensationalist. Then I read the bill's summary, which literally says "The bill also repeals the crimes of elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person and domestic violence elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person." Again, I thought I was misreading this, so I checked and confirmed that one of the laws this bill would repeal is Title 17-A 208-C, a criminal penalty for assault of a pregnant person. I am in shock and utter disgust that this anti-abortion bill also appears to reduce the penalties for assaulting a pregnant person. This is disgusting. Where is the logic in a "pro-life" candidate reducing penalties for people who assault pregnant women?

The fact of the matter is that if this bill is passed, women in Maine will die, just like they are currently dying in states like Texas and Missouri. I truly hoped this never, ever reached the point where the Legislature has to vote on this. Now that it has a public hearing, I feel it is my obligation to voice my opposition in an attempt to protect the safety of every woman in this state

Regards,
Maxim Zakian

sources:

<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/11/27/texas-abortion-death-porsha-ngumezi/>
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