

Sarah von Puttkammer
Portland
LD 975

My name is Sarah von Puttkammer. I am a resident of Portland, Maine, and I am testifying against LD 975 - An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion on March 28, 2025. I am writing to express my strong support for ensuring that abortion remains legal, accessible, and protected in the state of Maine. The right to make personal medical decisions, including the choice to have an abortion, is fundamental to individual freedom, bodily autonomy, and public health. I find it hypocritical that the same people who supposedly champion bodily autonomy in regard to vaccinations denounce abortions. This "pro-life" movement seems to only care for the well-being of a fetus, not for the health and safety of the mother, nor do they seem to care for the well-being of a child once he/she is born. This is not about the sanctity of life; this is about control over women's bodies.

The majority of Mainers support the right to abortion, and our laws should reflect the will of the people, not the agenda of a small but vocal minority. Safe, legal abortion saves lives. Denying access to abortion does not stop people from seeking it—it only makes it more dangerous. When people are forced to carry pregnancies against their will, it can have devastating consequences on their physical health, mental health, economic stability, and overall future.

I urge you to uphold Maine's commitment to reproductive freedom and reject any attempts to restrict abortion access. Our state must remain a place where people can make personal medical decisions with dignity, compassion, and respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration.