

May 18, 2021

Judiciary Committee

Testimony LD 748 and 915



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Senator Carney, Rep. Harnett and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Deborah Crump, I live in West Paris, ME, and I am testifying today on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Action Network in opposition to LD 748, An Act to Remove Coverage under the MaineCare Program for Abortions not covered by Medicaid and LD 915, An Act to Conform State Funding to the Federal Hyde Amendment Limiting Funding for Some Abortion Services. Both of these pieces of legislation would repeal Title 22, section 3196, which ensures coverage of abortion care by MaineCare. As a person of faith, I believe in justice and equity for all, which informs my conviction that the right to make decisions about when to start a family ought not be restricted by gender, faith, race, or income. Whatever one's personal beliefs about abortion, government has no business interfering in a decision made by a woman, her family, and her health care provider.

These two bills would decrease abortion access for low income women.. These politically motivated restrictions fall hardest on people who already suffer systemic discrimination in the health care system: Black and Latinx families, immigrants and the LGBGTQ+ community.

Women who want but are denied abortion care are more likely to fall into poverty than those who can access abortion care. Studies have shown that a woman who is able to make decisions about her reproductive health care, including having children, has more control over her economic security and her ability to determine her own future. This can affect her ability to continue her education, pursue a career, care for the family she may already have, follow her dreams. Instead of making access to abortion more restrictive, we need to support women and families as they make these very personal decisions.

Life is complicated at best and making the decision whether to end a pregnancy is one of the most personal and difficult decisions one can make. I believe everyone has the right and ability to make the best moral choices for themselves, free from infringement or outside influences. I urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 748 and LD 915. Thank you for your time.