



Christian Civic League of Maine

Maine's Family Policy Council, Associated with Focus on the Family

Chairpersons, Carney and Moonen, honored members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Carroll Conley, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to LD 780.

For years, the pro-life cause has made the argument that life begins at conception: therefore, regardless of what stage of development, the unborn baby is human. Being human, that baby is worthy protection – legally due to our constitutional protections of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—morally, because every human being is an image bearer of God and has intrinsic value.

With the advancement of technology, a generation of Americans have grown up seeing pictures of their siblings, cousins, etc. *in utero* on the refrigerators. The myth that a baby is a blob of cells has been busted, and there are few on either side of this debate who would argue that a developing baby is not a human.

At the center of this debate and LD 780 is autonomy. Apparently, there is now nothing more important in human existence than autonomy. Therefore, those who support abortion without restriction no longer argue he or she isn't human. Now the argument is he or she is inconvenient, he or she is disabled, he or she might be poor, here she is the wrong gender.

This morning, our Attorney General was asked for an example of a compelling interest the state might have to deny or infringe upon the right to an abortion (referencing the present language of constitution.) He couldn't offer an example. Now, I'm not an attorney, but I might suggest that the state has a compelling interest to defend its unborn citizens from being extinguished because his or her mother is a waitress at Applebee's and could experience the challenges of being raised in a lower middle class home . I urge you to vote not to pass for LD 780.