



Grandmothers For Reproductive Rights

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Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr. Connie Adler and I practiced women's medicine in Maine for 30 years. I am also the Board Chair of Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), an organization that works, through education and advocacy, to secure access to sexual & reproductive health, rights and justice for present and future generations. I voice strong support for LD 780, on behalf of myself and my organization.

Actually, I am testifying today because I'm tired of testifying on this issue; we all are. I bet you are tired of seeing us! Every session brings a slate of bills attempting to further circumscribe people's choices about reproduction. Just imagine what good work you could do with the time spent on these hearings! I do not in any way mean to be flippant about this subject; but, please do understand how tiring it is to fight continuously for a fundamental right that ought to be guaranteed by one's constitution. GRR!'s more than 500 activist supporters from across Maine have spent decades in this fight. You may notice we are even more passionate and determined as we've aged, not less. As a physician, I spent most of my career talking with women about their reproductive lives – deep and meaningful conversations about sometimes easy and sometimes difficult decisions. One-on-one, we talked through issues of wellness and violence, of joy and fear, of past trauma and future goals. And we spoke about medical care—both its promises and limitations.

We elders at GRR! grew up at a time when a woman could not open her own bank account, let alone easily access birth control. **We won't go back.** The resolution before you proposes a constitutional amendment which would protect a person's ability to make decisions about their reproductive life and how that person defines themselves and their family. It would enshrine Mainers' fundamental right to reproductive autonomy, without question. I know we do not all share views on issues like abortion and birth control, but perhaps we can agree it's beyond time for Maine people to decide whether or not they consent to an ever-shifting group of legislators making private health care decisions on their behalf.

Respectfully,

Connie Adler, MD
Chesterville, ME

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