

Stephanie Anderson
Cape Elizabeth
LD 1197

Testimony in Support of LD 771, LD 1197, and LD 1614

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary:

My name is Stephanie Anderson, and I live in Cape Elizabeth.

During her May 1 testimony on LD 1619, a pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church characterized bodily autonomy and choice as “sacred”.

When it comes to reproductive freedom, Maine is proudly a pro-choice state. This has been our law since 1993. Pregnant women in Maine have a choice to either have an abortion or have a baby. Both choices are forever choices.

A choice is an act of selecting or deciding when faced with two or more possibilities.

To make an intelligent choice, a real choice, the right choice for that woman— a woman facing a decision to have an abortion or to have a baby ought to have the full panoply of information about those two choices available.

Without being provided to information about alternatives to abortion, pregnant woman cannot make a real choice. This is why I urge you to support LD 1614.

Without the right to withdraw consent for an abortion, pregnant women do not have a real choice. The right to choose cannot exist without the right to un-choose. To support a woman’s right to choose, the right to withdraw consent must be protected. This is why I urge you to support LD 771.

A woman’s choice to have an abortion should always be knowing, informed, and freely given. She should never be coerced into having an abortion. This is why I urge you to support LD 1197.

Thank you for your attention and for your service.