

James Cleary  
South Berwick  
LD 1197

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1197.

It is 2023 and with the recent Dobbs decision, the issue of abortion is very much up for debate across the country. There is no federally recognized right to abortion, as the Dobbs decision makes it clear that the previous Roe decision was deeply flawed.

There are many reasons why a woman or minor woman may feel that abortion is the only option. Having a child is a major life altering event. The promise of abortion as a way to erase a mistake is unfortunately not the same as the reality. Abortion results in the death of the fetus. If and when a woman decides that she doesn't want to go through with the abortion, up to the point of the death of the fetus, she should have the right to stop the process.

Just as having a child is a major life altering event, going through with an abortion can also result in lifelong regret. It is important that women not feel pressured into going through with an abortion just because money has been exchanged. Also a woman should be fully aware of her rights and the anti-discrimination protections afforded to her as a mother.

Please deem LD 1197 in "Ought To Pass" to ensure that women are able to make the last minute decision not to end a life. Thank you for your consideration.