

To the members of the Judiciary committee, fellow Mainers:

My name is Stephen A. Spaulding MD, from Scarborough, Maine. I come before you to oppose **LD 780**, “RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.”

Stephen A. Spaulding MD

“Personal reproductive autonomy” is a vague, undefined term. Even its proponents cannot agree on what it means, or whether it could be fairly applied for those with differing and conflicting desires.* We sometimes forget that anyone’s personal autonomy has limits, when their behavior has adverse effects on others or society. This nebulous language threatens both to nullify existing common-sense Maine laws that protect unborn children and pregnant women, and prevent future laws to do the same, but also threaten rights of those desirous of means to support, improve, or enhance fertility that are very expensive. It also puts physicians, nurses, hospitals and other health care providers at risk of infringements of their First Amendment rights of conscience and exercise of religious freedom. It would nullify existing Maine laws that require parental notification of their minor daughter’s abortion.

Maine already has laws that allow for abortion, even past the viability threshold with certain limits. This measure would open wide the doors to abortion at any stage of pregnancy for any reason, putting both mothers and unborn children at greater risk.

Last year 1184 Mainers testified against LD1619, which now allows late-term abortions, to 72 who testified for the bill. If over 94% of Mainers were against that bill, a much less radical change to our laws as compared to LD780, why would you consider such a radical change?

Please remember, one purpose of law is to protect the vulnerable, and there are no more vulnerable human beings than the unborn. The law also teaches, and if this amendment passes, the Constitution of Maine would teach that some innocent human lives can be taken at the desire of others for any reason at any time without due process of law.

Please do not again go against the will of the people by supporting LD780.

Stephen A. Spaulding MD

Family Physician, retired

Scarborough, ME

*NIH article attempting to define “Reproductive Autonomy”:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9908087/>

Stephen Spaulding
Scarborough
LD 780

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