

Carol Eisenberg
Portland
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Carol Eisenberg, I live on Peaks Island in Portland, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. I'm a voter, a woman, a mom, a lawyer, and a passionate advocate for reproductive choice.

Although I bristle at the frequency with which Mainers resort to referendum on legislative matters that would be best handled by our elected representatives, in this case referendum is the perfect vehicle to allow the people of Maine to speak and to explicitly enshrine reproductive autonomy in our state constitution. I have watched with dismay as women's rights to this basic healthcare has been curtailed in many states, and I have watched with pride and envy those states where the people have spoken up for their rights and secured them. We in Maine who enjoy strong laws protecting reproductive rights should build on this strength and make sure that our basic rights won't be up for debate every election year. A reproductive autonomy constitutional amendment would protect our critical rights in the future. Maine people deserve the opportunity to make their voices heard and affirm that the Maine state constitution protects reproductive rights. And you, our elected leaders, have an obligation to pass LD 780 so that all Maine voters can weigh in directly on this issue at the ballot box. We need our state constitution to make it explicit that reproductive rights are fundamental human rights, and they aren't up for debate, regardless of the shifting political winds.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you.