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Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and esteemed member of the Committee on the Judiciary,

I am writing today strongly in favor of L.D. 780, Senator Vitelli's bill, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy." I have long believed that without the right to control their own bodies, women are not truly free. With the Supreme Court decision vacating Roe, women are looking to state government to enshrine that right so that we can be equal citizens with a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

When I was born, in 1956, I did not have equal rights either as a Jewish citizen, nor as a woman. Others fought hard as I was growing up to give me those rights which I gained in the 1960s and 1970s. 50 years later, I look forward to my daughters' and granddaughter's rights to reproductive freedom being made constitutionally permanent at least at the state level. I will not stand for them to be forced to bear pregnancies they do not want or cannot handle or become victims of a dangerous illegal or self-induced abortion. I remember the Red Hanger Society. Let's go forward, not back. Thank you for your patience in dealing with this and all the other testimony you will hear and read today.