

Testimony

Susan Tobey, Brunswick, Maine

January 22, 10 a.m.

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Susan Tobey and I live in Brunswick. I am writing to encourage you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I am 67 years old and came of age in the mid-1970's during feminism's 2nd wave. One of our top priorities then was reproductive freedom. Like so many other women, I was appalled when the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. I am a mother and a grandmother and can barely fathom the prospect of women being relegated to lesser personhood by their government. I believe the most succinct way I can convey my point of view is by quoting Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seminal words on the subject:

"The decision whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman's life, to her wellbeing and dignity. It is a decision she must make for herself. When government controls that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a fully adult human responsible for her own choices."

It is outrageous that "settled law" regarding women's right to make their own decisions about their own bodies has been obliterated at the federal level by our conservative justices. If you are a man on this committee, please consider: would you want the government making this choice for your wife or your daughter regardless her wishes and unique circumstances? Please fully support the passage of LD 780 to protect Maine women's agency and autonomy.

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LD 780

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