

Bonnie Sammons
Belgrade, ME
LD 780

January 22nd, 2024

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen, and esteemed members of the
Judiciary Committee,

My name is Bonnie Sammons and I am a Maine citizen in D2 and a staunch supporter of reproductive freedom, including access to abortion. I'm testifying in support of LD 780, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

I am grateful that last year the Maine Legislature passed LD 1619, expanding abortion access. However I am concerned that access could be taken away with legislative changes in the future. I was encouraged to hear that Maine has the opportunity to pass a constitutional amendment that will protect reproductive autonomy.

I see this issue as one that can and should be decided by the people of Maine. The task of the legislature is to decide if the question about the change to our constitution will be put before Maine voters in the November election.

I believe the majority of Mainers would prefer to have the decisions regarding reproduction handled by individuals and their health care providers. This has been demonstrated many times with various legislative actions: The Reproductive Privacy Act, expansion of insurance coverage to include abortion services, and LD 1619 as noted above, to mention just a few.

Abortion is essential health care. There is no other medical procedure for which access is at risk each election cycle and subject to the whims of politicians, rather than scientific evidence and best medical practice. Decisions on abortion must be left to pregnant persons and their medical providers. Therefore the right to make these decisions needs to be protected by a constitutional amendment.

Therefore, urge you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 780.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bonnie Sammons
Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights
Belgrade, ME