

Nikkita Drake
Auburn
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Nikkita Drake, LMSW-cc, I live in Auburn, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I am a mother, a wife, a social worker, and an advocate. I believe all people should have the right to make their own decisions around their bodies. With every menstrual cycle each month, I have medical issues that result in lightheadedness, blackouts, and fainting. Doctors are currently unable to determine the reason it is happening. I have begun to advocate for my right to have a hysterectomy to reduce these medical issues and improve my daily functioning. However, due to my age and limited children, I have been denied a hysterectomy thus far and doctors continue to push me to get back on medications that alter my hormones. I am in my 30s, married for over a decade, and have a child. My husband had a vasectomy 8 years ago with no pushback from doctors. Like my husband, I and all people in Maine should be allowed to make our own health decisions without pushback and without input from legislators. Everyone should be able to make their own decisions about their reproductive healthcare and how, when, and if they decide to start or expand a family.

Maine has strong laws protecting reproductive rights, but laws can be changed. The rights Mainers have today should be protected in the future, and lawmakers have an obligation to pass LD 780 so that all Maine voters can weigh in directly on this issue at the ballot box. Access to reproductive healthcare is a basic right, and Maine people deserve the opportunity to make their voices heard and affirm that the Maine state constitution protects that right.

I should not have to fight my insurance, my PCP, healthcare team, and legislation to make decisions about my own reproductive choices. My health is important and I want to be healthy to continue to raise my son without extra health concerns. People live in Maine for many reasons and love to say it is "The Way Life Should Be." Passing LD 780 adds more to that Maine way of life of providing people with basic rights to access healthcare and making decisions that are right for them and their families.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you, Nikkita Drake.