

January 20, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Janis Hogan. I live in Belfast, Maine, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

For 47 years, I have worked as a nurse in the state of Maine. Most recently, I was a school nurse for 23 years, having retired in 2022. Working with adolescents and supporting their reproductive choices during one of the most crucial periods in their lives was a privilege. Guiding students to resources to prevent unintended pregnancies was a frequent request. There is nothing more life changing than a teen student becoming pregnant. The statistics are clear of the results of unintended pregnancies. Teen mothers frequently do not finish high school and often both mother and child live in poverty. The costs to society are enormous. I felt fortunate and proud that the State of Maine has laws that provide access to reproductive care. However, that is not the case in many states across the country that have recently changed laws forbidding reproductive choice for women. We need to protect this right in Maine and enshrine it in our state Constitution. It is very simple. EVERY PERSON HAS THE RIGHT TO PERSONAL REPRODUCTION AUTONOMY.

Please vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 780.

Sincerely,

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