

Milja Brecher-DeMuro
Bar Harbor
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Milja Brecher-DeMuro, I live in Bar Harbor, ME, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

At the age of 16, in the state of Maine, I had an abortion. I knew immediately when I discovered I was pregnant that I was not ready to be a mother and that I had a lot of life in front of me. Without this abortion my entire life trajectory would have changed. I am now a Clinical Social Worker with a meaningful and thriving and vital practice. I have founded and worked for several Maine nonprofits and I now have two amazing teenage children who I deeply desired and intentionally planned for. At 16 I was not ready to provide the meaningful, vital and all consuming work of parenting. I know any child I had would have had at that age would have suffered, because I was not ready. The fact that at 16 I had easy access to safe, local, affordable abortion care, saved my life and created the path to the life that I truly wanted. My children received the mother they deserved and they too know and have the solid foundational support to lead a meaningful and engaged and compassionate life that I knew I could only provide for them when I was ready.

For Maine to have the chance to explicitly enshrine reproductive autonomy in our state constitution would mean that all people with a uterus can intentionally choose when they want to be a parent. This personal and intentional decision will have a huge impact on the health of our children - a wanted child is significantly more likely to get the foundational support they need and grow to be healthy and thriving adults. As a Clinical Social Worker it is absolutely true that healthy and positive parental attachment from birth dramatically impacts resiliency and thriving. Every child deserves to be wanted.

Basic rights shouldn't be up for debate every election year. A reproductive autonomy constitutional amendment would make sure that the rights Mainers have today will be protected in the future. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you.

Milja Brecher-DeMuro, MSW, LCSW