

Laurie Downey
West Baldwin
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Laurie Downey, I live in West Baldwin, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I was 17 years old when Roe vs. Wade was decided by the Supreme Court in 1973. At the time I was very aware of the stories of back-alley abortions; as a young woman I felt great relief that abortion was now a legal and safe option for me and other women in the event of an unwanted pregnancy. I now have two daughters in their 30s, and it is hard for me to express the depth of my anger over the fact that our country has gone backwards, and that my daughters' right to make their own decisions about childbearing has been compromised by a religious minority. Because make no mistake, this is what the overturn of Roe v Wade represents - the imposition of a minority religious view on all of us.

For the time being, this issue has been thrust on the states. Maine is a state that has a long tradition of valuing individual rights, and the freedom to make our own decisions. We need to honor that tradition, and explicitly enshrine in our state constitution that reproductive rights are fundamental human rights. These rights should not be up for debate, regardless of wild gyrating shifts in political winds. You have it within your power, as our legislative representatives, to make this possible.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you.