

Susan Hillman Bourne
Waterville
LD 780

Reproductive autonomy is a fundamental right for all women and girls, which serves to protect the dignity and equality of all people as stated in the life, liberty and protection clauses of the U.S. constitution's 14th amendment. LD780 will serve the same purpose in the Maine constitution as well. As a parent and grandparent, I have experienced the joy giving birth and raising children has added to my life. I experienced two high risk pregnancies and deliveries, so I am very well aware that pregnancies and childbirths can involve significant health risks for both mother and child, including death. Roe v. Wade gave women the chance to choose and plan when and if to start a family. It gave us the opportunity to elevate our socioeconomic status and security by pursuing higher levels of education and employment. This in turn benefitted the strength of the American family. Then, after generations of women grew up secure in the knowledge that they were free to chose their life paths, then tragically, Roe v Wade decision was reversed. Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization is the 2022 Supreme Court case that reversed Roe v. Wade. My granddaughter deserves better, so do all young women!!