

January 22nd, 2024

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Beedy Parker, and I am a member of Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights. I am testifying (independently) in support of **LD 780, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.**

I ask you, members of the Maine Judiciary Committee, to support this Resolution to give the women of Maine full human and civil rights, with the strongest possible protection of our right to reproductive care, which must include the right to birth control and to be able terminate a pregnancy, with the concomitant right to bear children as we choose.

We need this right to order our lives and those of our families and communities. We need this right to be full human beings. And we need it to be healthy. I, long ago, could have lost my health and life from a pregnancy at a time when abortion was illegal in parts of this country, the land of the free. I was lucky.

I experienced an instance of being endangered by the abortion ban in Massachusetts in 1969. I came of childbearing age at a time and in a place where abortion (and birth control for the unmarried) was forbidden. I married and had two children, but my husband left after 9 years. I started a new relationship, and with the apparent safety of an IUD, we made love. I became pregnant, with the IUD in place. The doctor refused to remove it (he could have lost his practice or worse.) We decided to leave the country to get an abortion, not being in a position to have a child at that time. But I began to bleed and was admitted to the hospital for a D&C. Apparently the IUD had imbedded in the uterus wall and very nearly perforated, which can cause dangerous complications. I realized that my life and rights as a person were not important in this civilization.

We must, in Maine, secure as best we can this right as human beings to reproductive choice and care. This situation, of doctors being forbidden to take care of pregnant patients, is happening across the country, and we need to be sure we do not lose the right to this care in Maine. We see the fierce pressure, in other states and here in ours, to take these rights and care away and we are not safe. We need a constitutional amendment in Maine, to nail down as best we can, this essential right to full personhood.

Therefore, I urge you to vote **Ought To Pass** on LD 780.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beedy Parker

Camden, Maine

(I include [a link](#) to an animated version of my personal story)