

Ann Fleischer  
Saco  
LD 780

Thank you to this committee for taking the time to listen to and to read my words about LD 780. I am offering them with all the honesty, truth, and love that sixty-eight years of life have given me.

There are thorny and intractable problems in this world the answers for which I don't pretend to know. Making sure the girls and women of Maine have say over their own bodies, have autonomy over their own reproductive lives, which is to say more simply over their own lives, is not one of them. The autonomy in LD 780 is just fancy talk for that answer, for being able to take care of yourself. When or if to have a family is about as fundamental to that ability as anything I can think of. Getting that autonomy into our Constitution makes sure we keep it.

When I needed family planning care, Maine healthcare professionals provided that. When I tried to start a family but had a miscarriage and almost bled to death instead, Maine healthcare professionals got me through that. And for all the concerns I had carrying each of my two daughters, my healthcare team had every medical option for me. Those of you who are around my age, if you needed it, had those same options then. Those of you who are younger, should you need it, have them now. What greater responsibility can there be, when we look around in this moment, than to safeguard that kind of care?

I imagine you will hear and read testimony the breadth of which spans a range wider than any one person can speak to. In a way, that's the main thing I want to say; that there is no single answer, no one-size-fits-all account, no limit on how to live a life any more than there is in the range we want our daughters to have, in fact, that we raise them to believe they have. How is LD 780 cementing that range into our Constitution anything other than telling our daughters we believe it as well?

Thank you.