

Joan Beal
Norway
LD 780

I speak from the position of a person of faith, a Unitarian Universalist for more than 50 years. My religious convictions, like those of most people in Maine, religious or not, place trust in women's ability to decide what should happen with their own bodies. No one should have the authority to deny women that basic right. It is hard to believe that we would need a constitutional amendment to insure this right, but it seems we do.

I came of age before abortion was legal and saw the devastation and heartache that occurred when women were denied safe and legal abortions. I spent 20 of my adult years in Kentucky, volunteering as an escort at a women's clinic and saw the vicious self-righteousness of anti-abortion protesters. With the Supreme Court rescinding the right to abortion, Maine can not afford to return to harsh and authoritarian policies which determine women's lives. This issue should not be a political football in our state. Maine women, all women, deserve this right.