

January 22, 2024

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kelly Danielson and I live in Buckfield. I am here today to urge you to vote “**ought not to pass**” on LD 780. This amendment is ambiguous. We already have the right to decide whether to reproduce another human being or not, by choosing abstinence or birth control. However, does this include a “right” to terminate a preborn human being once it has begun its life cycle? The right to bodily autonomy is good until it brings harm to another. The preborn’s right to their life is harmed through an abortion “right.” Many good and bad laws are passed that do not translate into God given rights. One never has the “right” to take the life of another. Therefore, I am against this proposed amendment. We should be working on strengthening the rights of a preborn child as that is clearly becoming one of the most dangerous times in his or her life cycle. Sadly, society is very active in protecting the egg of other species before they are born while turning a blind eye to protecting the preborn human being. This amendment allows for us to continue down that blind path of ignoring the rights of the preborn person.

I have 2 questions concerning this bill for the committee to also consider. One, it says every PERSON. Although many interpret that to imply women, it does not specify. How does this amendment affect MEN and their reproductive rights? What demands can they place on women if this amendment is adopted? And two, how does this affect the medical personnel who ethically oppose a full 9 month abortion? Will they be forced to practice against their good conscience to participate in the termination of a preborn baby’s life because of a “constitutional right?”

I will close by also stating that I believe “reproductive rights” are choices made before actual reproduction. Once reproduction is started, it is no longer a reproductive right. It changes over to “parental rights” which does not mean the right to terminate or destroy, but the right to decide whether to accept or give up one’s parental responsibilities upon birth.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I urge you to vote “**ought not to pass**” on LD 780.