

Molly Livingston
Hampden, Maine
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Molly Livingston, I live in Hampden, Maine, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

As we see women's reproductive rights being rolled back around the United States, it's more urgent than ever that we make sure that the rights Mainers have today will be protected in the future.

Having our reproductive rights protected keeps women and girls safe, and will ensure we don't have to fight for these basic human rights every election year. I am personally exhausted from watching women's healthcare and basic rights be a constant battleground. As a mother, I know personally the dangers of not having full control over my reproductive decisions - and the deadly consequences of letting women's health be politicized to deny us our bodily autonomy.

Women in states with abortion bans are nearly three times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth. These bans are making doctors and maternal care centers leave states altogether, or making providers too scared to even see pregnant women who might be experiencing complications. 6 in 10 US women live in states that ban or restrict abortion and reproductive health care - this is killing countless women and children. (<https://www.axios.com/2023/01/19/mothers-anti-abortion-bans-states-die>) We cannot risk Mainers falling into the same scenario when we know the majority of citizens believe reproductive autonomy should be enshrined in the state Constitution.

We need to make it explicit that reproductive rights are fundamental human rights, not a battleground, and they aren't up for debate. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you.