

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I regret that I could not attend in person today due to an unforeseen family issue. Despite my absence, I am eager to express my unwavering support for LD 780, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine aimed at safeguarding personal reproductive autonomy.

My name is Linda Deane. I am a retired millwright and Maine Labor Leader, I understand the challenges that individuals, especially working women, face when it comes to reproductive choices. Our ability to make decisions about our own bodies is fundamental to our autonomy and well-being. LD 780 is a crucial step towards ensuring that every individual in Maine has the right to make personal reproductive choices without unnecessary interference.

In the realm of working women, the importance of reproductive autonomy cannot be overstated. Women often juggle various responsibilities, including career pursuits, family obligations, and personal aspirations. Reproductive decisions impact our ability to plan our lives, pursue our goals, and participate fully in the workforce. LD 780 recognizes the need to safeguard the rights of working women and all individuals to determine the course of their reproductive lives.

The proposed amendment aligns with the principles of individual freedom and privacy enshrined in the Constitution of Maine. It reinforces the idea that personal reproductive decisions are deeply personal and should be protected as a matter of constitutional right. LD 780 is a step towards ensuring that our laws reflect the values of autonomy and respect for individual choices.

I understand that discussions around reproductive autonomy can be complex, and concerns may arise. However, it's essential to emphasize that this resolution aims to protect personal choice, not mandate specific decisions. It respects diverse perspectives and acknowledges that reproductive decisions are deeply personal, varying from person to person.

At no point during the process of deciding when or whether to conceive or bear a child should the government be involved in mandating the choice. LD 780 stands as a shield against unwarranted intrusion, reinforcing that decisions about managing pregnancy belong solely to the woman.

In conclusion, I urge the Judiciary Committee to support LD 780. By doing so, you will not only protect the rights of working women but also contribute to a society that values personal autonomy and respects the diversity of individual choices. This resolution is a critical step towards ensuring that Maine remains a place where everyone can make informed and personal decisions about their reproductive health without fear of unnecessary intrusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Linda Deane  
President  
Western Maine Labor Council  
PO Box 76  
Livermore Falls Maine 04254  
[sterlin@roadrunner.com](mailto:sterlin@roadrunner.com)  
204-491-8168