

Elizabeth Thieme
Winterport
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Elizabeth Thieme, I live in Winterport, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I became a nurse in 1986. It was the norm at that time to get your diploma in nursing from a hospital-based program, I graduated from UMO with a Baccalaureate in Science in Nursing. Recently, I retired from EMMC after 37 years as a staff nurse, giving back to the community in which I had grown up. Had I not been given reproductive autonomy when I was 17 years old, I'm certain that I would not be telling you the same story. My, also young boyfriend felt the same as I did. We both had big ideas about our place in the future. We were in no position to become parents and luckily, we had options. Personally, I was desperate, and would have tried any means to preserve my autonomy; like almost all teenagers, I felt invincible. Hence, my strong belief that reproductive healthcare needs to remain available, and its safety overseen by remaining legal. Affirming that reproductive autonomy is our right by passing LD 780 will be positive for our citizens. We are then all afforded control over our destiny and our ability to contribute. I have two amazing successful women as daughters, each happy and successful (one of whom is also a staff RN at EMMC). I have grandchildren, brought into happy homes. I'm living my "big idea".

Please pass LD 780... let us vote on it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Elizabeth Thieme, RN, BSN