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Windham
LD 780

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OPPOSE LD 780 Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on

Judiciary, I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband, we are long time Maine residents.

We have watched as Maine citizens and government have wrestled with many issues, from concerns about education, parental rights, social justice, financial and moral issues.

There is no issue more paramount to a civil society than the issue of morality. Morality helps us distinguish between right and wrong; it helps us understand how to live a good life based on the common values we hold sacred as a nation, state, community, and family.

When we talk about protecting reproductive autonomy as this bill has outlined, we need to confront the issue of morality. As a nation and state that requires us, and rightly so, to put aside political agendas for the betterment of society.

Placing the highest value on life is foundational to any society. As John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Ask yourself how far are you willing to go in questioning the value of life. Maine already has the broadest abortion legislation in the nation. This legislation LD 780 is unnecessary, LD 1619 is already Maine Statute. I remember the day it was in front of the committee.

Members, you are fortunate as you were given the gift of life. You were not aborted. Think of the consequences of abortion, the negative lifelong effects on the mother, the loss of a human life of which potential will never be known. How would things look for those around you if you were aborted? This is a real eye opener if you apply your logic to yourself.

The first sentence of LD 780 reads,
SECTION 26. Every person has a right to personal reproductive autonomy, which is central to dignity and the liberty to determine one's own life course.

We ask you to apply that sentence to the life of the unborn. Where is the social justice there, how does this apply to the baby?

There was a time where we did not have the technology to understand the stages of pregnancy. That was then, this now, the year is 2024. The science tells us that ultrasound can detect the beating of cardiac tissue around weeks five to six. This is in fact why Planned Parenthood does not encourage ultrasound technology at the facilities. They understand that when a mother hears the baby's beating heart they overwhelmingly do not abort their baby.

We urge a strong ought not to pass on LD 780.

Respectfully submitted
Ann Marie and Randy Grenier
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Additional information:

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/7247-fetal-development-stages-of-growth>