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Long before Roe v Wade became law in 1973, women have needed and had abortions, though many of them died from unsafe procedures. The passing of Roe v Wade made it legal and therefore safer for women who chose to have the procedure and gained women the right to reproductive autonomy. With the overturning of that law in May of 2022 women's rights were thrust back some 50 years to where they were not able to decide for themselves what they could or could not do with their own bodies. If the federal government refuses to allow women this choice then let us make a stand here in our state and say that women in this state will be protected and will be safe because it says so in our state constitution. I've heard it said that this Constitutional Amendment is not necessary, since we have a law that protects women and says that abortions are legal in Maine. We had a law in Roe v Wade and look what happened there. Laws can and do change, but a constitutional amendment would clearly enshrine the right to reproductive autonomy for generations of Maine women.