

Marian Fowler
Indian Purchase Township
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Marian Hale Fowler, and I live in the village of Norcross in Indian Purchase Township, west of Millinocket.

I am writing to urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I am an 80 year old mother of three and the fifth of six children in my family. Each of the children born to my husband and me was conceived in spite of birth control, practiced faithfully, but each was welcomed lovingly into our family.

When I became pregnant for the third time, my doctor informed my husband and me that there were serious issues regarding the health and safety of both me and the child I carried. Roe v. Wade had recently become law, and the doctor offered, if we so chose, to guide us to a doctor who could safely terminate the pregnancy.

The operative words here are “if we so chose.”

We chose to continue the pregnancy, but when our son was born, there were complications. In the end, we both survived, but at the time, there were some frightening moments.

I am grateful that we had the right to choose what we felt was best for us. I do not, however, believe that I have the right to dictate to others what they should choose to do in this deeply personal decision.

Maine already has strong laws protecting reproductive rights, but, as we know, laws can be changed not only by elected officials but by courts as well. We need our state constitution to make it explicit that reproductive rights are fundamental human rights. Everyone should be able to make their own decisions about their reproductive healthcare, not subject to political changes.

A reproductive autonomy amendment to the state constitution would enshrine Mainers’ rights to choose what is right for them individually.

Again, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you very much.