

Linda Sanborn  
Gorham  
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonan and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Linda Sanborn, a former State Senator and Representative, and a retired family physician with more than 25 years of practice in medicine in Gorham, including 23 years of assisting mothers to deliver their precious babies, a true honor and privilege.

I am writing today to strongly support LD 780, A Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

During my work as a family physician, I witnessed every day that each person's life circumstances are unique to them, and their medical diagnosis and treatment plan must be guided by a patient's health and well-being, including both their physical and mental health, as well as their social situation. These are medical decisions that must not be directed by the government or by what political parties or politicians believe. Legislating complicated and personal medical decisions does not work and indeed, can cause serious harm.

As a 5-term state legislator, I witnessed women's reproductive rights challenged every single term. I am proud that Maine has stood on the side of protecting reproductive autonomy. However, with the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, followed by many states restricting reproductive freedom and limiting access to health care, a constitutional amendment to protect the rights and liberties of individuals becomes imperative. Doing less as we face challenges to our democracy and judicial independence is an unnecessary risk. The public health crises created in other states prove the validity of these concerns.

Please support this resolution and send it to Maine voters. Join with Vermont in defending reproductive freedom as central to liberty, dignity, and equality.

Thank you!

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