

Joshua Barber
Portland
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Joshua Barber, I live in Portland, and I implore you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I had an abortion. My wife and I sought out reproductive healthcare in Maine to terminate a very early unplanned pregnancy in 2020. But no one has ever asked me, will ever ask me, if I have had an abortion. And in the important ways, no one should. My wife took the thankfully safe, accessible pill that induced her period to stop that pregnancy. I was the silent beneficiary of the work a woman did. And every single abortion has someone like me. I am also an expectant father who is overjoyed to meet his first child soon. My wife and I have again sought out and been afforded incredible reproductive healthcare in Maine and are so excited to raise children here.

This healthcare is a basic right and not a privilege. Lives were lost and lessons were learned in the generations before mine to make it our right in Maine. Yet looking to other states that have criminalized abortion since the Dobbs decision, the danger of this lifesaving, life-changing right being stripped away is clear and present. American lives are being placed at risk every day that access to safe abortions is denied.

Healthcare providers have been forced to refuse treatment to patients until they are on the brink of death for fear of prosecution. I ask you, on behalf of myself, my family, and my fellow Mainers, to enshrine the right to a safe and legal abortion into our Constitution and protect us from that possibility.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you.