

January 22nd, 2024

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kaitlin Weiss and I am a junior at Bowdoin College, and originally from Summit, New Jersey. I am here on behalf of the Bowdoin Reproductive Justice Coalition. I am testifying in support of **LD 780**, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy*.

I am testifying today because legislators owe Maine voters the opportunity to exercise our democratic right to vote on the Amendment proposed in LD 780. As a Maine voter, we deserve the opportunity to decide the extent of our reproductive rights and access. This is not a question of political beliefs on abortion. To prevent LD 780 from the ballot in November is to strip Maine citizens of our essential right to vote. Regardless of how Maine voters choose to vote on the Amendment, it is critical that our democratic right is not obstructed by a rejection of this resolution.

At Bowdoin, I am an officer for a club called the Bowdoin Reproductive Justice Coalition. We organize with other local and national advocacy groups, like the Grandma's for Reproductive Rights, and Planned Parenthood. There are many students on campus who agree with our position on abortion, and many who do not. Every single one of us deserves the opportunity to represent ourselves and our personal beliefs at the ballot. I would find it disgraceful for our legislators to deny us our civil right to participate actively in our democracy. Once LD 780 is on the ballot, its contents are certainly a matter of personal and political view. At this stage, your vote does not contain a party, or a personal belief. A vote in favor of LD 780 is a vote in favor of democracy.

Therefore, I urge you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 780.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kaitlin Weiss, Brunswick Maine

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