

January 22, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Legislature Judiciary Committee. My name is Stacey Modrusan, and I am a resident of Hermon. I am here to testify on LD 780 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy. I am opposed to this amendment being added to our Constitution here in Maine.

I am a mother of 4 children. I also worked as a Sonographer, aka Ultrasound Technologist, for 19 years. This included 6 years in Maternal Fetal Medicine, which is for those experiencing a higher risk pregnancy. I understand what a life is. I have seen with my own eyes thousands of babies living in their mother's womb.

I have seen hearts beating as early as 5 weeks and 5 days. I have seen small, unborn babies at all stages of development. Their hearts beat, they move all their limbs, they open and close their hands, they open their mouths, they hiccup, they swallow, they urinate, their diaphragm, which is the muscle that moves the lungs for breathing begins to move. They also respond and move when pressed on from the outside of their mothers' abdomens. Often with a hard kick. They do so many things, they are alive.

We must respect and protect the human dignity of ALL regardless of their life stage. The unborn child is sacred and must be treated the same as all other human beings. No one has a "Right" to allow a life to be taken. No one has a "Right" to end the life of any child. In any other case to take a life would be called murder, by all. To allow abortion is also murder. This amendment has no place being enshrined in our Constitution. We cannot make up new rules and definitions on what a "Right" is. This is too extreme and unwanted in Maine. Actually, in a June 2023 National Gallup Poll, only 22% of the public favored abortions in the third trimester.

This resolution would create a "right to abortion" throughout all nine months of pregnancy by asserting a "right to personal reproductive autonomy." What exactly is "personal reproductive autonomy"? The use of vague and undefined terms will not withstand judicial review and can be ripe for challenges for constitutional vagueness. There is no indication that these terms are defined anywhere else in Maine Revised Statutes. It also makes it impossible and illegal to pass common-sense protections for the unborn child and her mother. Also nullifying a number of existing laws in Maine that actually protect mothers and their unborn children.

As I worked in the medical field I also am concerned about the potential jeopardization of healthcare workers' rights by infringing on the rights of conscience and religious exercise guaranteed by the First Amendment. What about their rights? Why are we always only caring about specific rights? I care about the Rights of all human beings. I want everyone to have a chance at life.

This radical resolution has many implications. I think it is irresponsible and dangerous to continue the process toward amending Maine's Constitution.

Thank you.

Stacey Modrusan
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