

Amy Larkin
Arundel, Maine

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Amy Larkin from Arundel, and I am writing to you today in favor of LD 780, a Resolution "Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy."

I was raised in part by my grandmother Eva who turned 101 last June. Now, I help care for her and she lives with me and my husband. She's been a teacher, a high school vice principal, a stewardess for American Airlines, a telephone operator and always a fierce supporter of reproductive justice.

Eva was born in New Haven, CT in 1922. Her mother died when she was two and her father left, so she stayed with different family members until eventually her great aunt and uncle took her in to raise her as their own when she was four. Many years later, Eva learned that her mother had lost her life seeking an abortion. She was told that my great-grandmother was pregnant and scared she couldn't afford another child and that her husband might leave her. She wanted to do what she thought was best for herself and her family, she wanted to survive. Instead, she died from complications from the procedure and my grandmother lost her mother.

Eva shared this story with me when I was a teenager to let me know how important it was for us to always fight for reproductive freedom. Pregnant people have always needed abortions and abortions have always been healthcare. It's a healthcare decision pregnant people must be able to make for themselves, for their safety, for their freedom.

My grandmother saw Roe V. Wade and then lived to see the Dobbs decision eliminate its protections. This has been a painful process for her, but we are grateful for the work here in Maine moving to pass some of the most progressive legislation that protects access to abortion. But we can and must do more. This is literally a life and death issue. I urge you to please pass LD 780 for my grandmother Eva, for my great-grandmother, and for all pregnant people in Maine now and in the future. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

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