

Anya Davidson
Readfield
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I, Anya Davidson, live in Readfield, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I am a school nurse at Maranacook High School. We have one of Maine's first and longest standing School Based Health Centers. In collaboration with Maine Family Planning we provide reproductive health care to students who may not otherwise be able to access it. The reality is that many high school students are sexually active and trying to do it safely. But no birth control method is flawless and unwanted pregnancies can and do occur. People who can get pregnant need to have a choice as to what they decide to do if they do become pregnant.

My job would be greatly influenced if reproductive autonomy is removed from our state. I cannot fathom standing in front of a pregnant high school student and discussing the limited available options if we as a state decide to remove reproductive rights. Pregnancies also happen as a result of sexual assault and to make someone not have a choice as to how they deal with the result of that trauma is simply cruel.

The uncomfortable truth is that the only way to keep abortion safe is to keep it legal. Basic rights shouldn't be up for debate every election year and a constitutional amendment for reproductive autonomy would make sure that the rights Mainers have today will be protected in the future. Maine people deserve the opportunity to make their voices heard and affirm that the Maine state constitution protects reproductive rights. As elected leaders, lawmakers have an obligation to pass LD780 so that all Maine voters can weigh in directly on this issue at the ballot box.

We need our state constitution to make it explicit that reproductive rights are fundamental human rights, and they aren't up for debate, regardless of the shifting political winds. Everyone should be able to make their own decisions about their reproductive healthcare and how, when, and if they decide to start a family. A reproductive autonomy amendment would explicitly enshrine Mainer's rights to do that in the state constitution.

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