

Katherine Ahrens
Yarmouth, Maine
LD 780

Dear Judiciary committee,

I am writing as a constituent of Maine, a maternal/child epidemiologist with 20 years in the field, and a mother of three children in support of amending the Maine state constitution to protect abortion rights in Maine.

Access to contraception and abortion are key to the advancement of women in our society. Being able to decide when to have a child and with whom to have a child with are fundamental to our ability to determine our own lives. Children also deserve to be born to a mother who has chosen to give birth to them. The responsibilities of becoming a parent are not to be taken lightly, and women deserve to be able to make this decision themselves.

In addition, pregnancy is not a no-risk scenario. It is one of the most high-risk periods during a women's reproductive life. Many things can go wrong for the mother and the fetus, and having the ability to have an abortion is often a life-saving option for the mother. In addition, pregnancy conditions themselves can increase the risk of chronic diseases later in life, so it is important for women to weigh these health risks with their desire to give birth and raise children.

Thank you,
Dr. Katherine Ahrens, PhD
Yarmouth, ME