

Distinguished members of the Committee on the Judiciary,

Good morning, my name is Kevin Craig, and I live in Waterville, Maine. I work with Maine Youth Power, and I am here today in support of LD 780 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy

Previously, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that abortion was a constitutional right under the right to privacy. After intense politicization of the nation's highest court, that right was tragically lost. Last year Maine made incredible strides to expand access to reproductive freedoms, which, as other Mainers have testified, saves lives and empowers women. However, such laws can be targeted politically and repealed, which is problematic for something like abortion, which shouldn't be politicized as a right and medical need. We know abortion should be a conversation between a woman and her doctor, and so let's keep it that way by passing LD 780 which would enshrine the right to that conversation in the Maine Constitution.

If the Legislature passes, this would ultimately still go to the electorate to decide, so the Legislature has nothing to lose by passing. You're hearing from the people now about the need for LD 780, and the people will again decide come the election. Additionally, for the pro-lifers out there, abortion is about the right to make an individual choice that is best for you. If you would rather not have an abortion, that's fine, but don't force your views onto others and limit the options a woman does have. This ultimately should remain a conversation between a medical provider and woman, and again, LD 780 would protect this conversation and right against the threat of repeal and politicization. Thus, I strongly urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time.

Kevin Craig