



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Kristen Cloutier

33 Charles St.
Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone: (207) 807-1637

Kristen.Cloutier@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Rep. Kristen Cloutier in support of
**LD 780, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect
Personal Reproductive Autonomy**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Kristen Cloutier, and I represent House District 94, which includes part of my hometown of Lewiston. I am pleased to cosponsor **LD 780, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy**.

We are all well aware of how laws can be overturned, depending upon which political party has the majority of the House and Senate chambers, as well as the Governor's Office. There is no guarantee that our reproductive rights will remain secure come this next election cycle, or future elections to come.

A constitutional amendment would protect Mainers' rights to make their own personal and private decisions about the use of birth control, when to engage in family planning and when to seek abortion care when necessary.

In November 2022, Mainers overwhelmingly supported elected officials who vowed to protect abortion access and their reproductive freedoms. Further, a 2023 poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center indicates that Mainers trust medical providers and their patients to make decisions about pregnancy and abortion. Nationally, two out of three Americans say they would vote to enshrine abortion in their state's constitution.

We have heard time and time again from our own communities that decisions about reproductive health care should be left to the person seeking care, along with their medical provider. Let us continue to uphold the will of the Maine people by including these rights among our state's most fundamental principles.

Thank you for your time and consideration.