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LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Sophia Chouinard, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. I go to Casco Bay High School in Portland and am currently missing class to testify for this significant cause. I encourage the people present to put aside their thoughts about abortion and think about it as it is, a medical procedure. As a nation, we value freedom, yet we are trying to take this personal choice away from people. As a state, we must lead the way and protect the privacy and freedom of our citizens.

When someone is forced to have a child, they can not provide adequate parenting. My grandmother was 12 when my father was born, being forcibly impregnated and then forced to give birth. Her parents, who had several children already, were not economically or emotionally able to take care of my father and were forced to give him up. This had long-term effects on my father's life and affirmed in my mind that no one should be forced to have a child they do not wish to have.

When discussing colleges with my friends, we have had to consider if the states we move to will take away our rights. We can not let Maine become one of these states. We as Mainers must remove any chance of this refusal of freedom and privacy. Our abortion laws could be changed, but we must make a permanent impact to protect our rights.