

Timothy Nangle Senator, District 26 3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Timothy Nangle Supporting LD 780, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary January 22, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Senator Tim Nangle. I represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. I am here to support LD 780, which would enshrine personal reproductive autonomy in the Maine constitution.

In my time as a Paramedic, I saw firsthand how critical it is that people have ultimate authority over their personal medical decisions. Seeing the intimacy of these moments, the weight of these choices, and the trust placed in medical professionals is why I believe so strongly that when it comes to our health, especially reproductive health, those choices should be ours and ours alone, without interference from politicians.

LD 780 is about making sure these personal choices are protected in our state constitution. It's about making sure that every Mainer has the freedom to make their own decisions about birth control, fertility treatment, abortion care, and much more, guided by medical professionals and their personal choices.

However, this goes beyond just public health policy for me; it's about respecting our Maine values of freedom and privacy. By passing LD 780, we allow the Maine voters to weigh in on whether these fundamental rights should be protected in our constitution. I believe rights as important as these shouldn't be up for debate every election. But by passing this bill, you don't have to make that decision. By passing this bill, you give the Maine people the opportunity to pass this amendment and to decide if Maine is a place where personal health decisions stay personal.

Passing LD 780 is about trusting Mainers to make their own choices about their health and their families. Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Nangle

State Senator, Senate District 26

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Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook