



**LD 780 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy - OTP**

January 22, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Gia Drew, and I am the Executive Director of EqualityMaine, which has represented and advocated for Maine's LGBTQ+ community since 1984. I am testifying today on behalf of EqualityMaine in support of LD 780 - RESOLUTION, proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

The freedoms and rights of the LGBTQ+ community are inextricably linked to our bodies. Having personal bodily autonomy, including reproductive choice, is at the center of our fight for equality. The control of people's reproductive choices is an issue that affects LGBTQ+ people, girls and women, people of color, younger people, disabled people, indigenous communities, low-income people, and the incarcerated. The implications of not having reproductive autonomy is not merely philosophical, the consequences of losing decision-making power are real, devastating, and long-lasting.

EqualityMaine stands for the freedom to decide to seek medical care to align our bodies with our gender identities, to love who we love, to form our own families on our own terms – and whether to become or remain pregnant. We believe that the power of bodily autonomy belongs to the individual, a value that rests on the constitutional and American right of individual liberty. We urge you to support this bill and to vote Ought To Pass on LD 780. We hope you will help ensure that the rights Mainers have today – which are fundamental human rights – will be protected in the future.

Thank you,

Gia Drew, she/her  
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