

Timothy Collier
Gardiner, Maine
LD 780

Testimony from Timothy Collier in support of L.D. 780, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy
Maine Legislature, Judiciary Committee
January 22, 2024

Respectfully submitted to the Chairs and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Timothy Collier and I ask the Committee to support L.D. 780, the proposed constitutional amendment that would protect the right to choose in Maine. In light of the nationwide efforts to restrict the ability of all Americans to make their own personal and individual choices to protect their health and plan their families it is crucial that Maine enshrine in our constitution the right of Maine citizens to personal reproductive autonomy. I understand the importance of reproductive freedom because it has protected members of my family as they made decisions that shaped the course of their lives.

I am now 64 years old. When I was a young man my mother took me aside one day and explained to me just how important she, as a woman who had known life without reproductive freedom, considered the right to choose. Some years later she remarked that there was probably one thing that could cause her to go out and march in the street: if the U.S. Supreme Court ever overturned *Roe v. Wade*. As we all know, that day has come. She is now 95 years old and is not likely to join a public demonstration at this point. But her words still ring in my ears and they are as urgent as they have ever been. Please act to protect the right of all Mainers to access critical health care and plan their own families. Please vote to pass this resolution.

Thank you for considering L.D. 780. I urge you to vote "ought to pass."

Timothy Collier
Gardiner, Maine