

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and the honorable members of the Maine Legislative Judiciary Committee. My name is Brendan Fedrizzi, and I am from Waterboro, Maine. I am here today to testify against LD 780

I believe that this legislation ought not to pass due to its employment of language that is vague. The Proposed amendment does not define its terms. Specifically, the term Reproductive Autonomy. I will prove in the next few minutes that abortion is not an act of Reproductive Autonomy, and that the bill's language should be amended, or the bill not sent forth by this committee.

we can define Reproductive as that which pertains to reproduction. With the aid of Merriam Webster, we can define Reproduction as "the act or process of reproducing." Autonomy, I will define as the freedom to make decisions over one's own body and to pursue one's full potential. Thus, reproductive autonomy would be the freedom to make decisions about oneself in the intentional act of reproduction.

The act of reproduction is fulfilled in the creation of another human being. This action is initiated through intercourse and consummated at conception. From that point the human being is growing in the womb, and this person will continue to grow up until about the age of 25. This is proven by the fact that the most basic form of life is a cell, and we all begin as that single cell. The offspring in the womb has its own human DNA. That offspring is not going to change and become a cat, a tree, or a gorilla. That newly alive human is going to remain and continue to develop until it has reached full adulthood. Abortion happens after conception, and thus after the intentional act of reproduction is finished. At this point, there is no question as to whether one will reproduce or not, it already has happened. There are now two humans, who are equal in dignity and autonomy. Justice, giving each their due, demands that each human being, regardless of age, have the basic necessities to live. For that to happen, we must first allow one to live. If one is dependent on us for sustenance and nourishment, justice demands it of us to provide it. To paraphrase John Locke's Second treatise on Gov't. Offspring have a right to be sustained and nourished by their parents". Abortion, a separate intentional action than reproduction, is contrary to justice. It is the action of taking an autonomous human life owed the necessities to grow.

Thus, abortion cannot be considered in the definition of reproductive autonomy. Since there is reasonable confusion on this term, the bill should be voted not to pass or at the very least amended to explicitly include or exclude abortion, so the Maine legislators and people know what they are voting on.

Cut version.

Given that they are equal in dignity and autonomy, it is wrong claim autonomy for one while neglecting the other. Additionally, justice demands that one has the basic necessities for life, and thus humans in and out of the womb deserve nourishment. Furthermore, the act of reproduction having already taken place, and abortion is a separate action, it is wrong to consider them the same as this bill does. (TO THUS....)

Testimony B. Fedrizzi against Id 780

Notes for potential questions: what about homelessness etc.... One injustice does not justify another injustice. We should be working towards a society where people can afford to buy a home etc., but that does not excuse the injustice of abortion. Rather we should work to eradicate both abortion and homelessness.

Aren't you choosing one autonomy over another by supporting the child? No, both autonomies are equal, we have to look to the value and virtue of justice. Justice demands that we work to ensure that everyone has the basic necessities to live. The child needs nourishment, in the womb and out of the womb. Justice demands that it is provided to them. It also demands that society help the mother, but again one person's injustice does not excuse another. Two wrongs do not make a right.

The bill in question.

Personal reproductive autonomy. Every person has a right to 6 personal reproductive autonomy, which is central to dignity and the liberty to determine 7 one's own life course. The State may not deny or infringe on the right to personal 8 reproductive autonomy unless the denial or infringement is justified by a compelling state 9 interest and is accomplished using the means that least denies or infringes on the right.

Locke, John, *Second Treatise on government*. Ed. CB Macpherson (Hackett Publishing: Indianapolis, Indiana, 7.

Reardon, David C. and Tessa Longbons 2023. "Effects of Pressure to Abort on Women's Emotional Responses and Mental Health" [10.7759/cureus.34456](https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.34456).

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LD 780

I did not have access to a printer, nor did I see the 20 copy request. What is in yellow and Blue was spoken at the hearing. What is not highlighted is a more full version of my speech. You will also see a supplemental "answers to potential questions section."