



**Testimony in Support:  
LD 780 “RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the  
Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive  
Autonomy.”**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonan, and members of the committee. My name is Kimberly Caldwell, I am the President of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants (MEAPA), a practicing PA in Lewiston and a resident of Auburn. MEAPA is testifying today in support of LD 780 “RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy”.

MEAPA asserts that personal autonomy over one’s body and the healthcare received or refused is a tenant of our professional oaths. By extension, personal autonomy includes assurances of reproductive autonomy, which for decades has served as a guiding principle of established healthcare ethics. Healthcare clinicians are guided by the four pillars of the Hippocratic Oath: beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, and respect for the patient’s autonomy. This oath and the ethical standards it creates, govern the intricacies of healthcare decision making and care delivery. The law cannot account for every scenario encountered by a licensed healthcare practitioner and their patients, nor should it seek to limit personal freedoms regarding these decisions. As other states' experience has shown, an arbitrary determination of the limits of reproductive autonomy are fraught with scenarios not considered in the initial drafting of the prohibitive resolutions/laws, and in some cases pose a threat to the wellbeing of the pregnant person.

We urge you to vote “ought to pass” on this bill and move LD 780 forward so that all Mainers can have the opportunity to vote on this amendment and affirm the right to reproductive autonomy in Maine’s constitution.

Thank you.