



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Sophie Warren in support of
**LD 780, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to
Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and respected colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Rep. Sophie Warren, and I represent House District 124, which includes part of Scarborough, in the Maine House of Representatives.

Prior to the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* almost two years ago, I had never known a world where reproductive freedom wasn't protected. But, since June 2022, I've witnessed an onslaught of states across the country passing laws that cruelly punish those simply seeking and receiving the abortion care services they need.

Over 20 states have enacted bans or near total bans on abortion, and 1 in 3 women have lost the right to abortion in their home state.

Shortly following the Supreme Court's decision, I wrote a piece for the Portland Press Herald, recommitting myself to protecting and strengthening reproductive rights for all Mainers.

I stand here today, on Roe Day, reaffirming that commitment by strongly supporting Senator Eloise Vitelli's constitutional amendment to protect personal reproductive autonomy. I am proud to be the lead cosponsor in the House on such an important fight.

Here in Maine, we have been lucky that reproductive rights have largely remained protected. However, the laws that are currently in place are not guaranteed past the next election.

Senator Vitelli's constitutional amendment would provide even stronger protections and make it even more difficult for politicians to restrict our rights and freedoms in the future.

Mainers across party lines have long shared a belief in the right to reproductive freedom, and have repeatedly voiced loudly and clearly that our government should not have control over women's bodies, regardless of the political makeup of our Legislature.

With federal protections for abortion gone, state-level protections for reproductive liberties are vital. Right now, we have strong laws in place, and we believe our state constitution as written protects reproductive rights. However, this amendment would make it even more explicit, enshrining Mainers' fundamental belief that reproductive rights are human rights.

It is time for the Legislature to pass this amendment, get out of the way and give Maine people the opportunity to vote to enshrine these critical protections once and for all.