



Pinny Beebe-Center
Senator, District 12

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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Augusta, Maine 04333

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Senator Pinny Beebe-Center, and I represent Senate District 12, which is all of Knox County except for the towns of Isle au Haut and Washington. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak on behalf of LD 780, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy."

Ensuring that the people of Maine have the basic rights to their own bodies should not be up for discussion, and yet this is a debate that we find ourselves having time and time again. It seems many don't understand how scary it is to constantly have your bodily autonomy in jeopardy. We have done a lot of work to safeguard reproductive autonomy in the last year, but laws can always be repealed, no matter how strong they are.

State constitutions are intended to protect fundamental human rights, and we believe that our state constitution, as written, protects the right to reproductive autonomy. But with recent decisions coming out of the US Supreme Court that imperil or revoke our federal rights—from birth control to abortion care—it's more important than ever that our state constitution is crystal clear. This amendment would make it explicit: reproductive rights are fundamental human rights.

As legislators, we have an important responsibility to propose legislation that is beneficial to our constituents. If we had the opportunity to ensure that Mainers had the right to govern their own bodies and reproductive freedom, and failed to do so, then we have failed in our role as elected officials. This is a chance for all of us to do the right thing, and make sure that the government keeps its hands off of what we do with our bodies.

I thank you all for your time and consideration. Please do the right thing, and support LD 780, thank you.