

Testimony of Hadassah P. Beal

--In Opposition of LD 780--

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Hadassah Beal, and I am speaking in opposition of LD 780, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy*.

This bill seeks to make abortion a **right** in the Maine Constitution. Last May, pro-lifers filled this Capital to speak out in record numbers against late-term abortion in Maine as the Legislature debated LD 1619. Our legislature got a clear message that we do not want laws that expand abortion in our state. With the passage of last year's bill, Maine has become one of the most open states for abortion. This is a sad disgrace. Today, we have returned to remind you that we still stand for life and do not support legislation that threatens innocent children.

Life begins at the moment of conception, and every human being deserves the right to life. How can a mother have the right to abort her child? What right does a doctor have to snuff out a baby's life? In Proverbs 6, there is a list of six things that the Lord, the Giver and Creator of Life, hates. Two of these things are hands that shed innocent blood and a heart that devises wicked imaginations. We can also look to Section 6-A of our own constitution, which states:

*"Discrimination against persons prohibited. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor be denied equal protection of the laws, nor be denied the enjoyment of that person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof."*¹

Are we planning to strip the constitution of these words to fit the recent bills being passed in the Maine Legislature? LD 780 most certainly deprives these children of the gift of life. When one person kills another outside the womb, it is called murder, and the offender is judged by our laws and punished. However, when a doctor performs an abortion (which is the slaying of innocent life), it is condoned and protected by our law. This is sickening and evil. In your hands is the power to encourage the preservation of or the destruction of life. Please, consider the far-reaching consequences the passage of this bill will have, if passed, and make the decision to choose Life.

I urge you to please vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 780. Thank you for your time.

1 <https://www.maine.gov/legis/const/#a6>