

Testimony of Emmeline Beal Against LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary,

I am Emmeline Beal of Cherryfield, and I urge you to vote “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 780. This proposed amendment is inconsistent with the current Declaration of Rights in our state constitution. Article I, Section 6-A reads, “No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor be denied the 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

LD 780, however, deprives preborn children of life and liberty. It denies them the equal protection of the law and the enjoyment of their civil rights. Should the same document ensure life for some and death for others?

Politician Alan Keyes said, “Freedom requires that at the end of the day, we accept the constraint that is required, the respect for the laws of nature and nature’s God that say unequivocally that our daughters do not have the right to do what is wrong, that our sons do not have the right to do what is wrong. ...

“We are not going to remain a free people if we insist on being a corrupt and licentious people. We are not going to remain a free people if we arrogate to ourselves the right to destroy the rights of others. And that is exactly what we are doing when we embrace the so-called ‘pro-choice’ agenda—which is actually just the pro-abortion agenda.”²

On October 25, 2023, a shooter in Lewiston murdered eighteen innocent people. Thirteen others were injured, and many more endured emotional trauma. But tragically, those eighteen deceased weren’t the only ones for whom October 25 meant death. That same day LD 1619 went into effect, permitting the murder of infants who could survive outside the womb.

In Luke 13:4-5 Jesus referenced a tragedy of His day: “Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” He did not blame those who died when the tower fell, but He warned everyone still living to turn to God in repentance—a powerful warning for Maine as well because disregard for life breeds disregard for life.

Proverbs 14:34 says, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” If we keep disregarding the sanctity of life and legalizing immorality, what can we expect? The Creator will hold us accountable for breaking His eternal laws.

Please oppose LD 780. Thank you for your time.

¹ <https://legislature.maine.gov/ros/LawsOfMaine/#Const>

² Alan Keyes, 1995 speech “The Message of Freedom,” included in *The Patriot’s Handbook* p. 462-463