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To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Regarding L.D. 780, " RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy."

January 22, 2024

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of the Town of Belgrade, Maine.

I oppose L.D. 780.

We live in a Constitutional Republic where individuals can make a difference.

I'm a Bible believing evangelical Christian who takes my faith seriously. I apply it to all phases of my life **which was once commonplace in America**. I want to save the State of Maine from the wrong path we are following. We want our state back to what it was when we had **LIFE**, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Society has changed and we see the result, suicide up, kids confused and people clearly lost, looking for something to believe in like a strong Maine, good education ... Jesus? We cannot continue to live in lies and survive, much less thrive.

The fact that God created us in His image gives us our identity and infinite value as human beings. Dr. D. James Kennedy said: "Human nature cannot be changed by legislation. It can only be changed by the Spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." We have a duty to vote, pray and take action.

Judge Learned Hand said in 1944 that "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it, nor do much to help it."

America was founded on Christian principles by Godly men and women who loved God and freedom, and were willing to risk their very lives for it. Today's would-be historians make a mockery of our founding fathers and misrepresent them any and every way they can. Our founders weren't perfect because they had the sin nature just like you and I and every human living today. But they, through the guidance of God, designed this nation and its Constitution that has proven to be the best in history. We were a city on a hill. Our light shined for the world to see and want.

That light is going out, and it's with just such laws as LD 780 that are increasing that drive away from our founding, and goals of what we want to become. This is insanity. LD 780 is incompatible with the very document it wants to add to.

Our Maine Constitution says...

**"Objects of government.** We the people of Maine, in order to establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for our mutual defense, promote our common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of liberty, acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the **Sovereign Ruler** of the Universe in affording us an opportunity, so favorable to the design; and, **imploring God's aid** and direction in its accomplishment, do agree to form ourselves into a free and independent State, by the style and title of the State of Maine and do ordain and establish the following Constitution for the government of the same.

#### Article I.

#### Declaration of Rights.

**Section 1. Natural rights.** All people are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of **enjoying and defending life** and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness."

I understand that it was the governor's bill to expand abortion law in Maine to allow abortion right up until the time of delivery. In other words, all nine months of pregnancy for any reason. This made Maine one of the worst states in the nation for abortion rights, shameful in my view.

This bill, L.D. 780, enshrines that right into the Maine Constitution, never to be debated again by we who adamantly disagree with it. Because Roe v Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court, our Maine Legislature is panicking and doing everything it can think of to sustain abortion rights, with no regard to the harm it does to the mother and the child as well as fathers, grandparents and the culture.

Maine citizens, I repeat, cannot continue to live in lies. Calling abortion "health care" is a lie. Abortion is murder. A majority of Maine people agree. We don't want the right to it enshrined in our Constitution!

Please, I implore you to vote "no" on L.D. 780. Thank you.