

TESTIMONY OF ANDRE LEVESQUE.

In opposition to LD-780  
An Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Reproductive Autonomy.  
Public Hearing January 22, 2024

Members of the Committee and of the Judiciary.

My name is Andy Levesque. I'm a resident of Gorham , a board member of Maine Right to Life and a representative of the Maine Knights of Columbus.

On their behalf I am testifying in opposition to LD 780.

In a recent Knights of Columbus/Marist College Institute poll released last week, it shows that nearly 6 in 10 Americans support restricting abortions past the first 3 months of pregnancy.

The study shows that **only** 33% feel that abortion should be allowed without any limitations.

Maine already had the most aggressive abortion laws in the nation; why is this amendment necessary?

I find it interesting that you use **autonomy** and **equal protection** when describing the person making the decisions; no one cares about the **autonomy** or **equal protection** of the child in the womb who should have the same equal rights as our constitution: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

This state and the current administration are determined to control the lives of women who are seeking alternatives for their pregnancy other than abortion.

Referring to the recent poll; 83% of Americans support pregnancy resource centers.

Facts matter: Since 1973, advances in science have shown that babies have a heartbeat at 4 weeks gestation,

He or she feels pain as early as 12 weeks and begins hearing at 16 weeks.

By 24 weeks, the child has **every organ in place**, and with modern technology, 60-70% of babies are now able to survive outside of their mother's womb.

Any attempt to abort the child at this stage will cause him or her excruciating pain.

The passing of such a radical resolution would enshrine a right to end the lives of unborn, **viable** children up until birth.

It is unethical and has no place in our Constitution.

For these reasons, We strongly urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS - LD780

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