

January 22, 2024

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Legislative Judiciary Committee,

My name is Emma Clark, I am from Belfast, Maine and I am here to testify against LD780 Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

To support abortion is to lack hope in good for the world. It is a form of despair that does not see true meaning to life.

It's a view that says unless you are wanted and healthy then you have no value and do not deserve to live. It's objective truth that each and every person does have a dignity and worth that no one can ever take away. Our very existence is good.

So, what is being said when you speak of "personal reproductive autonomy"? Speaking clearly, this proposal is in support of permanent access to abortion up to the moment when a baby is about to be delivered.

A question I propose to you is: what are the unborn?

To paraphrase Pro-Life advocate Trent Horn:

Embryologists say that at the point of fertilization a human organism comes into existence. This is science. If that organism is growing that means it is alive. If it has human DNA and human parents, that means that it is a living member of the human species. Developing members of our human species deserve to be treated equally with the right to life.

If a developing baby were merely tissue then there would be no problem with abortion. To have an abortion would be morally the same as getting a haircut. A baby forming in the womb is alive, it is not a lifeless clump of cells. Given the proper nutrition, environment and time, a forming human organism has the ability to grow into a mature member of our human species.

I offer a counter proposal. Hope. I invite you to choose the path that leads to hope for our world by standing up for the life, dignity and value of all humans big and small. Without your support there will be no limit in what level of destruction can be justified in the name of autonomy.

Thank you for your time and God bless you all.