

January 22, 2024

Testimony in Opposition to LD 780

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

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

My name is Nathan Gould; I am from Winterport. This testimony is submitted in opposition to LD 780, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy."

The vagueness of "personal reproductive autonomy" deserves all the scrutiny it receives. The most glaring issue in this proposed amendment is leaving the God-given rights to life, liberty, and the dignity of the preborn open to infringement just because an individual is located in a womb.

Some may point to the difficulties of raising a child they didn't expect as a reason for killing infants in the womb. Yet it is a tragic and unacceptable line of reasoning that suggests the solution to economic or social hardship is killing a baby. Infant sacrifice is nothing new, even if it is dressed up in modern language that claims support for women while ignoring the rights of the future women and men in the womb.

When surveyed, 6 in 10 Americans support limiting abortion to the first three months of pregnancy.^{1,2} Our state has horrifically overstepped even this permissive

1. Knights of Columbus & Marist Poll. (2024, January 18). *2024 K of C-Marist Poll: A Consistent Consensus Supports Legal Limits on Abortion*. Knights of Columbus. Retrieved January 21, 2024, from <https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/articles/marist-poll-consistent-consensus-supports-legal-limits-abortion.html>

limit. A solution is needed that supports the rights of not only women, but also the preborn. We must start with the Constitution and its protections for all citizens.

We can look back to certain dark periods of history and feel the urge to make hot-blooded declaration and dramatic platitudes about how, if living in that time, we would have resisted a particular infamous evil or bravely marched alongside that era's paragons of virtue. When those generations that follow us (however many of them survive our society's multifarious attempts to annihilate them) recall these days we've been given, will we be seen as those with whom they would want to stand? Perhaps they will consider the past year's attempts at testifying against unthinkably awful legislation to be inadequate and the affronts to God and human decency should have been met with more vigor, our polite adherence to the legislative process deemed futile. Even so, an inadequate attempt at resistance seems a great deal preferable than apathy and compliance—or worse, complicity for political advantage or personal gain.

These past months have shown there are still a few who would rather sacrifice some of the time God has given them to stand against a seemingly insurmountable foe like the Abortion Industry than to ignore the massacre of innocents. Regardless of how entrenched one is in the pro-death movement, it is not too late to repent and be changed, both in political thought and spiritual life through the Lord Jesus Christ.³

Protecting life is a compelling reason to not let this bill pass. We are called by Almighty God to deliver those being lead to death, and we cannot in good conscience simply ignore this issue or deny our responsibility.⁴ Therefore, I ask the members of this Committee to correct the course of our state and vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Nathan C Gould, Winterport

2 Knights of Columbus & Marist Poll. (2024, January). *Americans' Opinions on Abortion*. Knights of Columbus. Retrieved January 21, 2024, from <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/polls/marist-poll-results2024.pdf>

3 Romans 5:10

4 Proverbs 24:11–12