

Testimony Opposing LD 780
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Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Danae Kershner. I am a physician trained in family medicine, practicing in Maine for twelve years, and representing the American Academy of Medical Ethics. I am here to testify in opposition to LD780.

In the last nine months, I have stood and testified before this committee on multiple occasions. I am here again today and not at work taking care of sick patients with the hope that my voice which represents the views of many Maine physicians will be heard.

LD780 is about so much more than “reproductive autonomy”. The bill goes on to discuss “dignity and the liberty to determine one’s own life course.” In actuality, this is a radical bill that attempts to cement the unethical and divisive elements of late term abortion as part of our state constitution. During the public hearing for LD1619, I sat in this place and heard person after person state that the decision to have an abortion and end an innocent life should be left between a woman and her physician. Sadly, that radical bill passed, despite the fact that the majority of Americans and Maine citizens oppose open ended and late term abortion.¹ And now, instead of leaving the decision of abortion between a woman and her physician, Planned Parenthood and other special interest groups are pushing our citizens and lawmakers to establish their agenda in our constitution.

Let’s look at these issues of dignity, liberty, and autonomy. LD780 is open ended without any ethical restraints. Where does that leave the dignity of informed consent? Where does that place clinicians with a conscience to have the liberty to not participate in this process? Where in this bill is a woman who is struggling with making the best decision for herself and her unborn baby guaranteed the dignity of being educated in what is involved in a late term abortion. And furthermore, there is no allowance for the unborn child’s opportunity to determine his or her own life course. This bill does not belong in our constitution.

For these reasons, and so many others, I strongly urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD780.

1 <https://news.gallup.com/poll/506759/broader-support-abortion-rights-continues-post-dobbs.asp>