

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

My name is Sandra Labonte and I live in Searsport. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony and for your serving the state of Maine.

I stand opposed to LD780, the "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy".

I find it interesting that in the wording of the resolution you choose not to use the word "abortion", but instead, you use "Personal Reproductive Autonomy" to make it sound more palatable. Our Constitution should not be a vehicle to give any person the right to take the innocent life of a baby in the process of growth in the womb.

Putting the right to abortion in the State Constitution of Maine would protect women, as citizens, to be able to do so but how would it protect babies, our future citizens as well? After passing LD1619, even though a large majority of people spoke against it, here you are again, trying to come up with some way to protect your sacred tenet or Holy Grail of abortion.

I do not understand this steadfast mindset, but I do understand that there are extreme circumstances that may drive a woman to seek an abortion. You know these cases are rare, but you continue to use them to justify radical and unnecessary legislation. Can we not attempt to find alternative solutions through open discussion instead of enshrining this in our Constitution?

Do we not have a conscience anymore? God says in Exodus 23:7, "Do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty."

Please vote "Ought not to pass."