

Senator Chair Anne Carney, Representative Chair Matt Moonen, and honorary members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Katherine Parker-Harding from Sidney, Maine. I address you today regarding LD 780, labeled as an amendment to protect personal reproductive autonomy. The bill states every woman has a right to personal reproductive autonomy, and the State may not infringe on the right to personal reproductive autonomy.

There is one thing I know to be true in life; every single human being on this earth born or unborn deserves the undeniable God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This amendment goes against the very foundation that our great nation was founded upon.

Many claim that abortion is a “woman’s right” or a matter of “her body, her choice.” All scientific fact points to this being an egregious lie that has been sold to millions of women around the world.

From the moment of conception, a preborn child has an entirely new set of DNA entirely separate. By week three, the child’s presence begins to register on pregnancy tests. Between weeks five and six a heartbeat can be heard on an ultrasound. In April 2021, the University of Alabama at Birmingham discharged Curtis Means, a young boy who had been born at a mere 21 weeks gestation and not only survived outside the womb but is now thriving. This baby boy and many more of these miracles will occur as technology continues to progress, proving that preborn children are indeed human beings far before birth with lives of their own to live and are worth just as much as anyone in this room today. Yet the Maine legislature wants our state to ensure the supposed “right” to end children's lives up to forty weeks gestation.