

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Alicia Collins. I am a citizen, registered voter, selectman in the town of Sidney, and a member of Maine's largest conservative PAC – The Dinner Table.

I am speaking today in opposition to LD 780, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

Every year, my husband and I participate in a prayer vigil called 40 days for Life. We stand outside the abortion clinic, on Gabriel Drive, here in Augusta and pray. We pray for the pre-born children, the expecting mothers, the silenced fathers, the staff, the abortionists, and you, our legislators. We pray to end abortion.

My prayers are for the pregnant women. The women Maine Family Planning, and other abortion providers like Planned Parenthood, will say are better off if they have an abortion. Because wouldn't a child just ruin their education, career, or travel plans? Maine Family Planning will let you think they are showing compassion to the plight of the mother – she deserves a life of her own.

Women like my friend, Leslie, who during her time in college had five abortions. She told me she thought she might be addicted to it. Her emotional turmoil, as she tried to speak to me about her experience, cannot be expressed in words. Broken is a word I would use. She tried on multiple occasions to tell me about the circumstances behind her choices, but could never wrap her head around her decisions, especially since she now has had two children. She just kept saying – WHY?

I know another woman, an athlete, who also had multiple abortions. In her mind, it was just a choice, not a life. As she reflects now on what happened, she wonders "what might have been" if she had these children. Her shame from her decision is great. She said, "Hey – you won't tell anyone about this, right?"

I'm going to let this committee in on a little secret, Maine Family Planning doesn't care or have compassion for her, or Leslie. They haven't been with either of these women when they're crying their eyes out for the choices they've made.

I know these women because I, too, have my own story. Here's another little secret, abortion isn't a choice, it is life altering.

Before my time is up, I want to ask this committee a couple rhetorical questions.

Don't you care about your constituents?

Do you think it is fair Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood have more sway with this Legislature than your own constituents, the people who elected you?

Thank you for your time,

Alicia Collins,

Citizen and registered voter, Sidney