

Nancy Ellen Deane-Loranger
Portland, Maine
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Nancy Deane-Loranger, I live in Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

I am a 62-year-old woman, a wife, a mother, a concerned citizen and a consumer of reproductive medical treatment. I have had the privilege of living in the state of Maine my entire life and can trace my mother lineage in Maine back to the 1700's; that is 7 generations of mothers. Maine has a deep history of self-reliance, self-determination and personal autonomy. Throughout my life, I have created my own destiny, without limitations placed on me or my body by government or anyone else. I have never had the concern that my incomplete miscarriages would go untreated, that my life would be put into danger by denied or delayed care, all in the middle of aching loss. It has been me, my loved ones and my medical providers who have determined my reproductive medical treatment. I never thought that there would be a threat to the independence, dignity and opportunities that I have had.

With the failure to respect precedent by the highest court in the country and the resulting full-on assault to reproductive rights in other states, I find myself perfectly enraged that we are here in this moment. I stand on the shoulders of my 7 mothers. I stand strongly and I stand firmly with the basic human right of self-determination, which, for those of us with a uterus, means full, uninhibited access to reproductive medical treatment throughout our lives.

By enshrining personal reproductive autonomy in our state's constitution, we would be following Maine's long tradition of self-determination. We will be forever holding doors open, ensuring personal dignity to every Maine person.

Reproductive autonomy is personal autonomy. Personal autonomy is Freedom.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 780. Thank you.

Nancy Deane-Loranger