

Good morning members of the committee,

My name is Rebecca Sentementes, I am a resident of Yarmouth, and I am here today to urge you to support LD 780.

I was 24 when I had an abortion. I had been incredibly careful not to become pregnant up to that point but was unable to access birth control over a few days and was careless. It happened at a time when my boyfriend and I had been apart, I had been lonely and sad. He didn't want to have a baby and I didn't have the emotional, financial or mental resources to have a child at that time on my own. The two adopted children that I had known were treated very badly by their families and I was unwilling to give a baby to someone else to raise because of that. When I had the abortion I was really sad about it but I always felt that it was the right thing to do given my circumstances.

A world where everyone's reproductive autonomy is respected would mean more people born into this world who are wanted and planned for. Babies might have parents who were prepared to care for them with all the resources needed to provide a good life. There would be less guilt and shame over taking care of ourselves, more kindness and acceptance of others decisions. Far fewer children abused and more children given resources-enough kindness, love, food and clothing-to succeed in the world.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 780, because every woman has a right to have sovereignty over her own body.

Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Sentementes