

Intro

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Perrin Chick, I live in South Berwick, Maine and I urge you to support LD 780.

I'm here today because I want my daughter to know I'm an advocate. All of our children and future generations need us to be their advocates. Today I share a piece of my story so that in the future other people can keep their private moments private. Many years ago, I was diagnosed with a pituitary tumor. To shrink this brain tumor, I had to take extensive and powerful medicine. My monthly cycle was sporadic at best, often non-existent as a result. My then-fiancée and I were, fortunately, able to talk at length and openly with doctors about birth control options. No hormone-based methods were recommended. We used other methods. I scheduled brain surgery to remove the tumor. We wanted a family and to bring a child into the world but not while I had a tumor and my health was at risk and not while I was taking such high-power medicine because we did not know the impact it would have on a child in utero. Birth control is not a 100% guarantee as we know. We learned we were pregnant. We again consulted doctors. Collectively we did extensive critical thinking on how to move forward. I felt supported. I felt informed. I had timely access to resources close to where we lived. I am healthy today. My husband and I have an amazing teenage daughter. After my pregnancy with her, my husband chose to get a vasectomy. Before that decision, we had the opportunity to consult doctors. Again, there was accessible and timely information available to us. There was support and excellent medical care. There were options for us. And we made informed decisions.

Everyone deserves to have accessible information, comprehensive care, and reproductive autonomy. I want my daughter and my ancestors to have the same rights I had. I want doctors and patients to feel supported now and in the future.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate living in Maine. I appreciate that we have strong laws protecting reproductive rights, but as you know laws can be changed, and their fate can be determined from election to election. We need our state constitution to make it explicit that reproductive rights are fundamental human rights, and they aren't up for debate. A reproductive autonomy amendment would explicitly enshrine Mainer's rights to do that in the state's constitution.

Conclusion

Please vote to Pass on LD 780. Thank you.