

Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
by Matthew Beck of South Portland

LD780, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy

Monday, January 22, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Matthew Beck, and I am a resident of South Portland, here to testify in support of LD780, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

As I considered the tremendous importance of the issue before you today, I thought of the thousands of women throughout our country whose lives and freedoms have been put at risk because of the disastrous decision of the United States Supreme Court to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision. And while I'm grateful that this Legislature and this Governor took courageous steps to protect the rights and lives of women in Maine, I'm keenly aware that future legislative majorities and future Governors could just as easily take those rights away.

By passing this resolution and giving Maine voters an opportunity to enshrine bodily autonomy into the Maine Constitution, we would be taking long lasting steps to protecting the reproductive rights of Maine women for generations to come.

As I prepared to be here today, I couldn't help but think of your colleague, my longtime State Representative and dear friend Lois Galgay Reckitt, who is listed as one of the co-sponsors of LD780. As you know, Rep. Reckitt always will be remembered as a human rights champion, dedicated to preserving the rights of women to control their own lives and make their own decisions.

I'm certain that she would be providing passionate and intelligent testimony in favor of LD780 today tempered with her unique sense of humor. I'm confident that she would be grateful for your decision to let Maine voters decide this issue once and for all.

Thank you for your dedication and important work on this issue.