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25+ Years of Independent Practice as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine

Committee on Judiciary

Re: LD 780/SP339 RESOLUTION, proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy

January 22, 2024

Dear Senator Carney & Representative Moonen & members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am a Family Nurse Practitioner from Stetson, who works in Bangor. I represent the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association (MNPA) as a member of the legislative committee to urge you to support LD 780, a Resolution proposing to amend the constitution of Maine to protect personal reproductive autonomy.

We stand with other professional organizations in support of this bill to protect the rights and freedom of all Maine Citizens to choose and direct their own reproductive care. Basic rights and freedoms should not be debated. State constitutions are meant to protect our fundamental human rights, which include reproductive choices and autonomy for reproductive choices. We urge you to support this resolution to amend the constitution of Maine to clearly protect Mainers right to choose i.e. autonomy and have reproductive freedom.

Reproductive autonomy is crucial to equality, family well-being, health, sometimes life, and economic well-being. We believe the Maine Constitution already protects reproductive rights. Still, an amendment would make it more clear and protect against attacks against reproductive rights as one of the freedoms that we possess & enjoy as citizens for autonomy in decision-making for our own lives and health.

We are asking you to help protect our rights via the Maine constitution, as has been similarly voted in other states where, in state-wide ballot measures, voters vote in favor of reproductive autonomy. Not clarifying reproductive rights in the Maine constitution threatens our right to reproductive autonomy, affects or delays care, & the basic 'justice for all' principle.

We urge you to vote in favor of this bill and please feel free to contact us if any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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