

Melinda Sheehee Gray LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Melinda Sheehee, I live in Gray, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 780.

When Roe was overturned, I considered with horror how it would have felt to carry my now 20 year old son without the federal reproductive rights recently lost.

Before my pregnancy I considered myself pro-choice, but as my body and life were radically altered over those intense 9 months, I became even more strongly convinced that no one should ever be forced to undergo that experience. Whatever someone's reasons for taking back full control of their body from a fetus, it is a right that should be guaranteed. I was so grateful then and now that my doctor could support me in whatever I needed/wanted. Without Roe, millions of pregnant people cannot rely on their doctors to care for them without risking criminal prosecution. Indeed, these days they also must fear prosecution themselves if they miscarry. **IT'S TERRIFYING TODAY TO HAVE A WOMB OR TO CARE ABOUT ANYONE WHO DOES**

For the same reasons we do not force anyone to donate an organ, even to save a life (many living donors risk less than someone experiencing a relatively normal pregnancy), it is wrong to force anyone to proceed with a pregnancy that they do not want. While Maine currently has good protective statutes, those could be changed easily. Already our rights diminish depending on where we live or travel. Absent federal protection, we can at least enshrine the right to reproductive autonomy in the Maine constitution.

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