

January 22, 2024

Greetings Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Maxine Collins. I live in Wilton. I'm here to testify in favor of L.D. 780 a Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

Legal abortions save lives, a woman's decision about her health care should be protected by the constitution.

I was only one when my father died. Against better judgement, he went out to check his trap line. He was paddling across North Pond when he got caught in a storm and drowned. They dredged the pond for three days before his brothers found his body.

My father's death left my mother with seven children to feed during the Great Depression. Eventually, she found employment caring for laying hens on a farm. We lived in a cabin nearby.

The job provided barely enough to keep us fed. Our clothes were hand me downs. When my mother found herself pregnant, her decision about the pregnancy would determine whether we children would have enough to eat. Her choice was to give us the best possible chance for survival.

Without the financial resources for a doctor, her decision ended in her death.

There were no good choices.

I remember the day of the funeral. I was not allowed to attend. I sat in the chair by the door of my mother's employer, sobbing.

I was passed between relatives, never feeling wanted anywhere.

My mother's death was the defining event of my life. If there is one thing I could change, I would have wanted her to be able to get proper medical care when she needed it desperately.

Please give LD 780 your full support.

Thank-you,

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