

January 22, 2024

Jo Trafford
Portland, Maine
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jo Trafford, I live in Portland and I urge you to Pass on LD 780.

In my early 20s I was in college in NYC. I was young. I got pregnant. I wasn't equipped to be a mother. I had slept with several acquaintances. I had also been raped by a stranger. I did not know who the father was. I chose to abort.

Here is a truth. I am the author of my life. And that is most profoundly true with my healthcare. It is my body – the container of me. It doesn't get more personal. And this is nowhere more profound than in my reproductive health choices because they could include the potential of a lifelong commitment to raising and caring for another human being. And I believe it is morally wrong to bring a child into this world if I lack skills and resources to raise them.

LD 780 would give all women the protection to shape our lives as we see fit.

In fact that core tenet of personal freedom was described in Our Declaration of Independence. A document that was the first step towards shaping our independence from the autocracy of a parliamentary Christian monarchy that had robbed us of having a voice in our own destiny. Let me paraphrase:

It cannot be disputed that all people, being equal, are given, certain absolute rights: Among these are life, the freedom, without constrictions, other than laws of a cooperative society, to live according to our personal morals and values and the right to be sole authors of our own life:

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Please pass LD 780.

Sincerely,
Jo Trafford