

Good afternoon Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, and members of the judiciary committee. My name is Hannah Lord and I am a parent and full spectrum doula living in Portland, Maine. I am asking you to please support LD780, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy.

As a full spectrum doula I understand the importance of reproductive autonomy for Mainers. Through my work as a doula I have supported clients through all pregnancy outcomes, including abortion. I have an immense amount of gratitude toward those clients who trusted me in supporting them during their reproductive experiences.

I have my own reproductive lived experiences as well. I gave birth to my own son as a teen, single parent with very little support systems. I had an abortion at age 20 which allowed me to leave an abusive relationship. In my mid-twenties I was a surrogate for two intended fathers. After the first IVF transfer the medical provider discovered I had an ectopic pregnancy, which ended in an abortion. After that experience I really didn't want to try again to become pregnant. I needed more time to heal from a really difficult experience. I was persuaded by an agency to become pregnant again through IVF for the intended fathers. Although I was able to carry this pregnancy almost to term, I had an extremely traumatic experience throughout the pregnancy complications. Because of my own experiences, I understand the complexities of pregnancy. The condition I had was hyperemesis gravidarum, which is a medical condition many choose to terminate their pregnancy for. Because I was contracted as a surrogate I was not allowed to and now have life long health conditions related to the pregnancy complications. Although I know LD780 most likely will still not change the rights surrogates have to make all medical choices for their body, my lived experience has made me passionate about ensuring other people have the right to make reproductive health decisions for their bodies. I firmly believe a person should have full autonomy over their body throughout their own pregnancy experiences, whether they have a complicated pregnancy or not. Mainers should have the right to vote for reproductive autonomy.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD780.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hannah Lord  
she/her