



Post Office Box 587
Augusta, ME 04332-0587
t: 207.622.7524
f: 207.622.0836

Testimony in support:
LD 780, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the
Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy"
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
January 22, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Evelyn Kieltyka and I am the Senior Vice President of Program Services at Maine Family Planning (MFP.) I am here to speak in support of LD 780, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy" sponsored by Senator Eloise Vitelli and to ask you for your support of the proposal.

As service providers, Maine Family Planning strongly supports LD 780 because we know that the circumstances that surround the healthcare decisions made by our patients are unique and complicated. Further those unique and complicated decisions cannot be known by lawmakers here in Augusta and therefore decisions of those kinds should not be made by lawmakers in Augusta. People, not politicians, should have the freedom to make their own decisions, including when it comes to abortion care. Additionally, we know that most Maine voters agree with us. LD 780 simply allows Maine voters to weigh in on reproductive freedom.

We all continue to live within a political climate where reproductive rights are under constant attack. At Maine Family Planning, we know that our patients are affected by this constant battle over their freedoms regarding healthcare decisions including abortion. LD 780's constitutional amendment would explicitly safeguard Mainer's rights to make their own personal, private medical decisions about their reproductive healthcare, including when to start a family, whether to use birth control or to receive abortion care.

In conclusion, at Maine Family Planning, we strongly believe that Mainers deserve the opportunity to weigh in and affirm that Maine's constitution protects reproductive rights. And we hope that members of this committee will see that they have an opportunity here to say they trust the voters – the people that sent them here to serve in our state's legislature. We ask that you stand with your own voter's right to self determination --- both at the ballot box and within the offices where they receive their health care. Thank you and I'd be pleased to answer any questions you have for me.