

Eli Grober  
Portland  
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I'm Eli Grober, I live in Portland, Maine, and I urge you to vote **Ought to Pass on LD 780**.

My mom had an abortion when she was sixteen, just weeks after the passage of Roe legalized abortion in the United States.

She wasn't ready to be a mom. She felt too young to be a mom. More importantly, she didn't *want* to be a mom. She was terrified by it. And, thankfully, my mom was able to have a safe and legal abortion.

When she eventually had me over a decade and a half later, she was ready — ready to be the absolute best mom.

Access to safe and legal abortion gave my mom her life back. And because she was able to make her own decisions on her own terms, years later safe and legal abortion gave my mom me.

If my mom didn't have the right and the access to safe and legal abortion, her entire life's path would have been thrown out of her control.

Had she been forced to give birth, there's no telling what would have happened. A medical emergency? A loss of the child? A teenager forced to find an unsafe alternative to a legal abortion? A mom who didn't want to be a mom? The only thing that's for sure is that I, Eli, would not be here today.

If my mom didn't have the right and the access to safe and legal abortion, I would not be here today.

I can't stop thinking about that.

Abortion is an issue that affects all of us. When politicians take rights away from people like my mom, they take away my rights, too.

Safe and legal abortion has given life to so many, many people. Safe and legal abortion gave my mom agency over her own body and her own life. And because of that, safe and legal abortion gave me life.

We must act to protect those rights, not just for my mom, or for the millions like her, but for all of us. Maine has strong laws protecting reproductive rights — but without the passage of this amendment, those rights can get put back on the ballot box at any time.

Today, you can act to protect those rights. You have the power to safeguard the fundamental right for a person to choose what happens to their body. This amendment would make sure that the rights Mainers have today — their freedom to decide — will be protected in the future.

I urge you to vote **Ought to Pass on LD 780**.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to take any questions.