

Good Evening committee members and thank you for having us at this hearing. My name is Dotty Ricks. I am a proud Vermonter for over 30 years as a resident in Barre Town. I am testifying **in support** of the Reproductive Liberty Act, Proposition 5. This bill affirms the state of Vermont's commitment to citizen rights of privacy, to a person's right to make healthcare decisions with their health care provider, and to SAFE, LEGAL reproductive choices for all Vermonters.

Among the reasons I want this bill passed is so that Vermonters, never have to face the horrors we did as young people. We cannot go back to those frightening times. Abortions did not begin with Roe V Wade – but Roe V Wade ended the cycle of death due to botched, illegal abortions. And as we watch Roe being gutted, by a politicized Supreme Court, passing Proposition 5 will be one step in assuring that at least Vermonters can make SAFE, LEGAL reproductive choices, regardless of what happens nationally.

As representatives of all of us, I ask that you put aside your personal and religious beliefs, and instead support your constituents' constitutional rights of privacy, keeping an invasive and repressive governmental presence out of our private lives and decisions.

Our brave little state has been a leader in so many areas and we stand on the cusp, by passing this legislation, of leading our nation in support of constitutional rights. By passing this legislation, you will give Vermonters the right to vote to choose how they want their healthcare decisions made. Please, support privacy and constitutional integrity by voting **“yes”** on the Reproductive Liberty Amendment.