

My name is Howard Cohen. I live in Bennington VT. I am the rabbi emeritus of Congregation Beth El, also located in Bennington.

I support the Reproductive Liberty Amendment for three reasons. These are not presented in order of importance. They are all equally important reasons why I support the Reproductive Liberty Amendment.

#1 I firmly believe that each of us should be able to make our own decisions in life – no matter who we are, where we live, or the amount of money we have.

#2 As the father of two daughters I firmly believe that they along with everyone else should have the freedom to plan their futures, and choose for themselves whether and/or when to have children. Similarly, important reproductive health care decisions should be guided by their health and wellbeing concerns.

#3 As a rabbi steeped in Jewish textual knowledge and wisdom, it is important for me to say that Jewish tradition and law upholds an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy.

In conclusion, Vermont can set an example of what is possible. With the fate of Roe v. Wade hanging in the balance, state-level protections are vital to safeguarding access to reproductive healthcare. Amending our state constitution is the best way to protect reproductive freedom in Vermont long-term.