

Hi. My name is Tracy and I live in Brattleboro, Vermont. As a young person, I experienced an unplanned pregnancy and had an abortion.

With my hindsight, I'd describe my 19-year-old self as naive and very inexperienced, in a relationship that only I was committed to. I became pregnant after my partner removed the condom I asked him to use during sex without my knowledge or permission.

Without my partner's support, I sought out an abortion and was relieved to find a local women's health center in the city where I lived. They were caring and helpful, and gave me the option to have the procedure done at a private clinic with fencing around the property so that I would be free from harassment and threats from extremist protesters.

I was relieved to have the abortion in a safe place and recovered within a week. I also gained the strength, clarity, and independence I needed to end the relationship with my boyfriend who broke my trust.

- Reproductive freedom means that I can plan my future, and actually have some control over it. I can decide for myself whether to be childless – or decide to become a parent, how many children I'd have, and who I would parent with.
- Reproductive freedom means that I have control over my body, and the final say on whether I carry a pregnancy to birth. And that I can make my decision while weighing my health, the respect and trust in my relationship, the resources like family and community support I have access to, my employment and finances, and my and my partner's maturity and capacity to parent.
- Reproductive freedom means that I am a person worthy of basic human rights, including bodily autonomy – rights most men have always had. It means that politicians will not discuss my body like an object or make my reproductive decisions for me, for political gain or any other reason.

I am a woman, and I believe that reproductive freedom and access to abortion are the biggest factors in women's fight for equality. I am begging everyone I know to vote yes on the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, Prop 5, so we can protect reproductive freedom in Vermont for generations to come.

Please help Vermont become a catalyst for other states in protecting reproductive freedom across the country. If we do, we will all promote true equality.