

WHY WE FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY

“All my life, I’ve fought for the right to seek a safe, affordable, and legal abortion. The issue is deeply personal for me.”

WHEN I WAS eight years old, my parents divorced, leaving my mother with four young children to raise on her own. I remember the night she was rushed to the hospital after she was found bleeding on the floor of our bathroom. Years later, I learned that my mother had attempted to abort her pregnancy – and had succeeded.

Eventually, she fell in love again but was abandoned when she became pregnant. After she gave birth, the doctor performed a hysterectomy that went wrong, and my mother died five months later, at the age of forty, leaving behind four children. This was in 1962, ten years before abortion was made safe and legal in this country.

Nobody should have to endure the suffering that my mother did. **The right to decide whether and when to become pregnant, use temporary or permanent birth control, or seek abortion care is fundamental, and access to reproductive health care impacts all of us.** What’s more, we know that when the government threatens or violates our reproductive liberty, low-income people and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) are disproportionately harmed.

Reproductive rights are under attack like never before in our lifetimes. That’s why the ACLU’s work to defend those rights is essential, and it’s one of the reasons why I joined the ACLU of Vermont’s Board of Directors. The ACLU works tirelessly in courts, statehouses, and communities across the country, fighting for the freedom and dignity of all people – including the right to reproductive healthcare.

I’m proud to be with the ACLU in this fight, and I hope you will join me in supporting this vitally important work at this critical time.



My mother, Arra Betty



Love & light,
Melinda Moulton,
Vice President
**ACLU Foundation
of Vermont**

ACLU IMPACT: REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY

The right to decide if, when, and how to have children is critical to an individual's self-determination. Over the past five decades, the ACLU, our allies, and our supporters have been instrumental in securing and safeguarding reproductive liberty for all Vermonters – and we're not finished.



Bans off Our Bodies Rally, May 2022

CREDIT: BOB LOCICERO

OUR FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN VERMONT

1970

Three years after its founding, the ACLU of Vermont joined a court challenge to overturn the Vermont law that prohibited abortions.

1982

We and our allies in the state house helped defeat parental notification legislation.

1986

We won a court ruling stating that Vermont's refusal to pay for medically necessary abortions as part of the Medicaid program violated the state Constitution.

2019

We helped pass H.57, which codified and preserved the right to an abortion in Vermont.

2022

After four years of advocacy and public testimony in which the ACLU and our allies again played a central role, the Vermont House of Representatives voted to pass Proposition 5, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment. The RLA will be on the ballot in November 2022 and, if it passes, will make Vermont the first state to enshrine reproductive liberty in its state constitution.

This work is far from over, and with attacks on reproductive rights intensifying nationally, our success in Vermont is more important than ever before. We are grateful to our supporters for keeping up the fight, in Vermont and nationwide.

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