Alan McDonald Rockland Maine LD 1619

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alan McDonald, husband and proud father of two wonderful boys (one of whom is only a week old!)

While I may not be a woman, and I have no idea the pains and trauma that pregnancy wreaks upon a woman's body, what I DO know is that there is another that is also vulnerable-in addition to the woman...someone that everyone seems to forget about amidst the rights of the woman is the child no one is advocating for. The child that did not ask to be conceived, and would very much like the chance to grow, and to be loved and cared for...

Why is it that we jump to the taking of a life so quickly? Imagine if you will that we are speaking of a non-infant child for a moment. If an investigation were conducted and the child was not or could not be cared for would that child be put to death? No, the child would have rights, and would be protected and ultimately moved to a family that could care for them! So why is it that we aren't putting in more measures to protect them at infancy? Are they any less a child? Any less deserving of protection and advocacy? We find ourselves in the unique position to draw the line, and establish a better system that advocates for the care and support of these little ones (should their biological mother not be able to care for them). There is no shame in asking for help, there is no shame in adoption or advocating for a child, but there is shame in murder.

To quote Dr. Suess (an author I enjoy reading to my children.) "A person is a person, no matter how small."

I pray that this message finds its way to the heart of anyone reading it, and that this plight might be heard. I pray that we might spare the lives of numerous children, and I pray that we might turn a new leaf in familial support, so this state can proudly declare "We take care of our own here."

Please do not make this decision lightly, and please remember those not being advocated for....