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H.P. 1044

House of Representatives, April 12, 2023

An Act to Improve Maine’s Reproductive Privacy Laws

**Testimony of Tom Gaffney before the House Judiciary Committee
on May 1, 2023**

Should This Bill Become Law?

(And Much More!)

Abortions may legally be performed by a licensed physician who determines it necessary AFTER “viability” of the fetus, i.e. any time after 24-26 weeks (counting from the first day of the last period). Viability means achieving sufficient maturity to survive into the neonatal period, given the availability of the requisite technological support, in other words, support to sustain a viable human life.

Should This Bill Become Law?

Abortions may be performed when it is not necessary for the preservation of the life or health of the mother.

At the time of this hearing, abortions after liability are Class D Crimes if the person knowingly disregarded the viability of the fetus; and the person knew that abortion was not necessary for the preservation of the life or health of the mother. This Crime is punishable by up to 364 days incarceration and a \$2,000 fine. Medications are widely available to “terminate pregnancies” for teens and adults, taken before viability is achieved.

Should This Bill Become Law?

It will be legal to perform abortions up to the day of natural birth.

This Bill, if passed, will make us all complicit in murder (premeditated killing of one human being by another). I urge you to oppose this Bill!

Instead provide an ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of cure:

Fund our schools to give children and their parents the knowledge and skills to relate with self and others in healthy relationships embodied in the Golden Rule, beginning in Kindergarten thru High School graduation.

Fund an expansion of Pregnancy Resource Centers for every county in Maine.

Expand support for comprehensive adoption services statewide, following the model of Act of Love Adoptions (aactofloveadoptions.com).

Fund Public Service Adoption announcements online and on all broadcast media throughout Maine.

All of us here can be grateful our own lives did not end in the womb.

Still, we will never know how many of the children who have been aborted would have become the very people we dearly need for this time in which we live!

I thank all of you for your consideration and service to the people of Maine.

Tom Gaffney, Retired Maine Psychologist