

I am writing in opposition to LD 1619 An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws. This bill seeks to remove the penalty for performing an abortion without a license. One argument pro-abortion people often use is that making abortion legal prevents "back alley" abortions, yet this bill would encourage such a practice. This bill if enacted would change the standard for when an abortion may be performed after viability (approximately six months gestation) to 'when a licensed physician determines that it is necessary' instead of 'when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother'. Hence this change would allow for late term abortions even after six months. The majority of Maine voters do not agree with such a practice.

Please be aware of how a baby develops in the womb:

17 days blood cells

18 days heart begins to develop

19 days eyes begin to develop

20 days nervous system develops

24 days heart begins to beat

28 days arms & legs form

30 days blood flowing, ears & nose develop

42 days skeleton complete & reflexes present

43 days electric brain wave patterns

8 weeks all organs present,

All future development is simply refinement. The baby will increase in size until maturity at approximately age 23 years.

9 & 10 weeks squints, swallows, retracts tongue

11 & 12 weeks arms & legs move, sucks thumb, nails appearing, inhales & exhales amniotic fluid

14 weeks the heart pumps several quarts of blood through the body every day

4 months genital organs clearly differentiated, grasps with hands, swims, kicks and turns somersaults

4.5 months vocal cords working

5 months weighs 1 lb & is about 12" long & hair appears

6 months increased movement

The term "viable" is used to describe the point when a baby can survive outside the womb. If a child, grandchild, nephew, sister is born three months premature we do all we can to help that baby survive and thrive. The thought of aborting a viable baby after six months is appalling to me and most Mainers. Thank you for your consideration, please vote no on LD 1619.

Sincerely

Jennifer Gogan
Littleton, Maine