

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for your service. I am writing to share testimony against bill LD1619. I am the mother of three adult children and extended family member of two aborted children. I understand the argument that an unwanted pregnancy can “adversely affect the life of a struggling mother”. A family member was struggling severely with depression, anxiety, and physical issues at the time of her pregnancies. She was in no condition to be a healthy mother and the prospect worsened her condition. Ultimately, she became a victim of abortion proponents, convinced abortion was the only way out. I say victim because she is in a much worse state now. Many years later, she is more depressed, has cut herself off from all spirituality and believes herself someone who God couldn’t forgive. Regret from mothers who have aborted babies and have deteriorated in mental health is a common theme and one I don’t believe the proponents of abortion give much thought. Compassion to the individual takes a back seat to political ideology. If you find yourself leaning toward this bill, ask yourself, “Are you promoting it out of compassion for that young woman or are you voting for an idealistic political purpose?”

Other Issues: Viability is ambiguously defined. With medical advances, babies can live outside the womb at younger and younger ages. My nephew was born around 24 weeks at just 1 pound and is thriving today as a 7 year old.

The law leaves the legal decision to a physician who is not infallible. There are many accounts of parents being encouraged to abort their child because the doctor stated there was evidence of a serious medical condition, only to have the child born perfectly healthy. My good friend and neighbor was one of those parents. Holly was encouraged to abort her child because the doctor believed the liver would be malfunctioning resulting in death or lifelong disability. My friend decided to have the child with the knowledge that they were going to ultimately lose the child or face great medical difficulties. Hayden, the child, now a highly productive and loving 23-year-old, was born perfectly healthy.

The bill removes criminal penalties for violating the law. This could lead to very dangerous situations including death for the life of the mother as well as for a baby who could live outside the womb with support. I can see no other purpose for decriminalization other than to make it a free for all. It seems like sloppy bill writing and not what anyone would hope of their Legislators, regardless of their views on life.

Please consider this video highlighting science. I believe advocates for this bill do not understand the “science” or they have lost all moral compasses and are stuck in a political agenda.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-IQOooYAs8>

There are many problems with this bill. I do not think it reflects the opinion of conscientious Mainers.

Sincerely,

Patricia Knapp

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