

Theresa Beaulieu
Gray
LD 1619

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Theresa Beaulieu and I am a resident of Gray. I am a mom of three grown children, and a grandmother of nine beautiful grandchildren. I was a former health professional and public health educator for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. I've been a Mainer all my life. I am submitting this in writing to testify to my strong opposition to LD 1619.

When I first heard of LD 1619, it greatly and continues to disturb me. Our third grandchild, Gianna, was born prematurely at 32 weeks after our daughter was hospitalized at 30 weeks. Gianna weighed slightly over three pounds. After she was born, she was placed in a NICU incubator at Maine Medical Center to be monitored. When I was allowed to visit her for the first time, I was struck by the amazing miracle of life her little body was. I had delivered three children of my own but she was so incredibly tiny. I remember her leg was the size of my thumb. She responded to my caress and held on tight to my pinky finger when I placed it in her precious little hand reaching from one of the side windows of the incubator. She would suck her thumb if she found it. It's a very precious memory for me. I marveled at the expertise, care, and attention my granddaughter received from the Doctors, Nurses, Chaplain, and others who worked in the NICU. A community surrounded her. Every baby no matter the cost deserves to be given a chance to life and love. A baby is a human being, a person, just like you and I made in the image of God. A little human being with a body and soul with the greatest potential. They are not a tumor.

This bill would allow Abortion at ANY time, for ANY reason. This is so very morally wrong. This bill would allow a baby like our Gianna (that survived outside the womb) to be killed. Because that's what Abortion does. Abortion kills babies. Maine would have one of the most extreme abortion laws in the entire country. This bill is beyond Abortion. It's Infanticide.

In speaking to my family, friends, fellow parishioners in Maine, we are all appalled that in our beautiful state of Maine, this kind of legislation would be considered. None support this bill. It's extreme. Every Maine citizen born or unborn has a right to life and pursuit of happiness.

Don't you agree that the state of Maine should offer Moms and their unborn babies better options, to empowerment and love? The physical and psychological risks to having an abortion is very high for women. "According to a recent study in a major scientific journal, 31% had thoughts of suicide after an abortion. In another survey, approximately 60% of women with post-abortion problems reported suicidal thoughts, with 28% attempting suicide and half of those attempting suicide two or more times. D. Reardon, *Aborted Women, Silent No More* (Springfield, IL: Acorn Books, 2002)." Maine already has a significantly higher suicide rate than the national average. I understand there can be many complex situations, emotions, fears for women of child-bearing age who find themselves pregnant with an unplanned or complicated pregnancy. Yet, there are pregnancy resource centers, adoption services, education, counseling, churches, palliative and hospice care services in Maine eager to help and give support.

Gianna is now 7 years old and attended her first Father and Daughter dance last night. She is energetic, kind, loves to bake, a big sister to her three younger siblings, and still loves to cuddle.

I would like to end with a quote from St. Pope John Paul II, "The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being." Please uphold Maine's motto-the way Life should be.

I urge you to please vote NO on LD 1619

Theresa Beaulieu