

May 1, 2023

Testimony In Opposition of LD 1619

"An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws"

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

I contact you today feeling blindsided by the title of LD 1619, *"An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws."* Upon reviewing the bill, it appears to be the most radical abortion policy ever attempted in Maine. The bill would more aptly be entitled, "A Radical Expansion of Roe v Wade."

If enacted, this bill would allow abortion on demand throughout all 9 months of pregnancy. Maine's abortion law would now be contingent upon a "physician's professional judgment." Late term abortions could be performed on a healthy mother, with a healthy, viable fetus, at any time, for any reason the physician so determines. We all know what that is: Infanticide.

Maine's long-standing abortion law which prohibits abortion after viability (except to save the health and life of the mother) would be trashed. LD 1619 would, however, permit *non-medical* persons the unfettered freedom to perform abortions without fear of criminal penalty under these circumstances. What happened to safeguarding Maine women's health? Under these conditions a receptionist, a financial planner, a dog catcher, a guidance counselor, or a yoga instructor could perform late term abortions. No problem.

This sounds more like the wholesale revival of back alley abortions.

If enacted, LD 1619 would not only open Pandora's Box, it would surgically extract its very hinges. Maine could become an Abortion Destination for the nation.

Maine's treatment of children has already made national headlines. You may recall the recent study by Maine's Children's Alliance. Their report indicates Maine's rate of child abuse and neglect is the worst in the country. In fact, it's twice the national average. We would be better served to enact true love-affirming legislation which supports women and their children who need love, care, high medical standards and resources for their families. This care can be provided by Women's Resource Centers and Maine's Pregnancy Resource Centers.

We don't need any more notoriety with regard to our children. Maine's women and children deserve our very best support, care, compassion and love...at all stages in their journey. No exceptions. Please vote with clarity, compassion, and common sense.

Passage of LD 1619 would leave a permanent stain on the very soul of our beautiful state.

Oppose LD 1619. Don't be blindsided.

Respectfully,

Teresa M. Tumidajski

Cape Elizabeth, Maine

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CAPE ELIZABETH
LD 1619

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