

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO
An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws
LD 1619
PRESENTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
May 1, 2023**

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

My name is Russell Brimmer. I am a resident and registered voter in Levant, Maine.

I am testifying to oppose in the strongest possible terms LD 1619, An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws.

Life begins at conception. This is an incontrovertible fact of biology. A human fertilized egg, an embryo, is a new human being.

Many people of many different cultures believe that human life is sacred. I share this belief. Confucius said, "What you do not wish upon yourself, extend not to others." Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

There are many arguments to support the killing of an unborn baby, but they all pale considering the right of every person to live. Once that life starts...at conception...that new human person deserves the same respect that all humans deserve. As the Preamble to our nation's Declaration of Independences boldly states, "All men...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Yet, people with less power are treated with less respect. People with no power are treated with no respect. More and more, we live by the motto, "Might makes right."

Saddam Hussein ruled with fear, torture and death. Vladimir Putin has created a story and is still trying to sell it to the world to justify the killing of innocents in Ukraine. All over the world, might makes right.

A brand-new human in its mother's womb has no power to defend themselves. This person cannot testify before you to defend their life. I am doing that in their place.

Now we come to the next logical step in this "might makes right" argument. With LD 1619, we are set to kill unborn people right up to the point at which they are born. These are babies that are capable of functioning outside the womb, of growing, of living long lives of greatness. Yet, we have the power to end all that. Might makes right. This is a huge step forward in a culture of death, a culture

where the will of the powerful is all-important and the will of the weak is nothing at all.

Today we consider the life of the unborn child to be inconsequential, an inconvenience to be disposed of any way someone sees fit. Today, you are considering making that designation the law of the state, right up to that child's birth.

I am 73 years old. My body is not as capable as it once was. At what point will someone consider my life to be inconsequential, an inconvenience to be disposed of in any way someone sees fit?

When will someone see your lives that way, members of the committee? This is a logical step from where you are today. Please, I beg you, do not go down that road.

I ask the committee to vote NO on LD 1619. Thank you.

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