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LD 1619

Madam/Mister Chair and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,
I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1619.

Babies are small and utterly dependent on others to take care of all their needs. They can be exhausting and smelly, noisy and frustrating. They take a lot of time and effort and money, but as the mother of two grown men, and having miscarried my first pregnancy, I can also say with assurance it is so rewarding to watch them grow and develop, and wonder, who will this little one develop into? Will he be an artist? Will she be a scientist?

Having known the grief of miscarriage, I can tell you, that baby was not just a clump of cells, it was our child whom we valued, and we mourned the loss of that life intensely. My friend who struggled with infertility and finally got pregnant will tell you that the new life growing inside her is not a tumor or a disease, but a valuable human being. If we do not value human life while in the womb, when the major need of the developing baby is for the mother to take good care of herself, then how can we say we care for and value human life at all?

LD 1619 would allow babies who could survive outside the womb to be killed. This would make Maine one of the most extreme in the country by allowing babies, who would otherwise live, to be destroyed. The majority of Mainers do not want late-term, viable babies to be slated for death by abortion.

Every life is precious – a woman's right to her own body is and should be protected, but an OB GYN will tell you that a developing fetus is not part of the mother's body. A baby in the womb has a distinct life of its own – nurtured by the mother's body – yes, but not part of it. Allowing a baby who would otherwise survive to be aborted, is not a choice, it is killing a human being.

Please vote no on all bills that would expand abortion or use public funds to pay for abortion. I respectfully, but firmly, stand in opposition to LDs 616, 935 and LDs 1343 and 1619.