

Jerome Collins  
Kennebunkport  
LD 1619

To: the Chairs and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I oppose LD: 1619: To Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

In my opinion, killing anyone should never be a private event; particularly, in the case of late term abortion/immanent birth abortion. This bill sets dangerous, new precedents in law and medicine that taking any life can take place outside of longstanding, traditional, legal oversight, and that a woman and her physician may take the place of the entire legal apparatus for state oversight of state sponsored death. It is a very bad, very dangerous idea.

Almost every physician in today's world verges on being a civil servant of the state through many necessary ties. Medical licensing, government fees for medical services, malpractice adjudications make physicians dependent on state approval. The idea that a woman and her physician can independently, privately decide about an abortion fails to recognize that this hoped-for private agreement is one step away from state government, one step away from any complaint that would necessitate physician evaluation. There is also the centuries old dictum to physicians: "First, do no harm." In any abortion, "someone" is definitely "harmed".

Depersonalizing the sanctity of life through abortion of late term babies has drastic spill-over consequences in many other areas of life: shoot-outs in schools, random acts of public violence, domestic abuse (and murder). Unavoidably, life has become cheapened by abortion and this "cheapness" cannot be contained or easily bounded once the law legitimates the extensive private collaborative murder of innocent children, between a woman and her doctor.

I also oppose, LD: 776, a constitutional amendment, which is proposing a very dubious right to bodily autonomy. Does this cover ALL possible circumstances of bodily autonomy? LD: 776 might well be read as including the autonomy of babies 'in utero', but there may be other medical and other circumstances where "autonomy" may need thoughtful qualifications. It appears to be a bill that was rushed through hastily, without careful thought an analysis.

I also oppose LD:1343: which attempts to "preempt", the field of abortion regulations. This bill would seem to disallow future modifications, amendments, changes resulting from normal experience, to shut out any future repairs. I question the legality and the logic of precluding repairs of any legislation in advance. None of us can read the future.

All three of these bills: LD: 1619, 776, 1343, Ought not to pass.

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