Ellen Brackley Waldoboro LD 1619

Hello, my name is Ellen Brackley. I was born and raised here in Maine, and have lived here most of my life. My husband and I have three children, two girls and one boy, all older teenagers. My girls are twins, born prematurely at 29 weeks of age. Both girls had some complications, one more severe than the other. The doctors told us that she would not survive and if she did, she would have a very limited quality of life. We believed then and we believe now that regardless of whatever complications her disabilities might present to us as her parents, she deserved a right to life. Today, as an almost 17 year old young woman, she is a vibrant and beautiful member of not just our family, but our community as well. Her life impacts so many. In the words of her pediatric neurologist, after he released her from his care, "She's remarkable." All human beings deserve the right to live. Who are we to judge their worth based on what might be? In light of my own family's journey, I feel compelled to encourage you not to pass this extreme bill that will allow the lives of perfectly healthy, viable babies to be taken from them.