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Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is MaryAnne Kinney of Knox and this is my testimony in *extreme* opposition to LD 1619 poorly titled “An Act to Improve Maine’s Reproductive Privacy Laws”.

First of all, reproduction is defined as the process by which organisms make other organisms like themselves. For humans that process is done through pregnancy in which a baby grows in a woman’s uterus. I can speak to this process as I have reproduced 2 amazing humans before, sadly, losing my 3rd baby after 8 weeks of pregnancy due to a natural miscarriage. Abortion is not reproduction; it is the opposite of reproduction by definition: “the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy”. This bill would essentially expand the legalization of murder! Murder as a noun, is defined as the “unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another” and as a verb, to “kill someone unlawfully and with premeditation”. Let’s break that down. If someone thoughtfully considers taking another’s life by running them down with a vehicle, or by causing an explosion near another person on purpose, or pointing a weapon at another person to end their life and succeeds in that mission, it is murder. Abortion is a premeditated decision to terminate the life of an unborn child-murder.

This bill expands the law that allows the end to a beating heart of a life with separate and unique DNA just because the bio “parent” doesn’t want the growing baby. There does not need to be any sort of medical reason for the cruel and violent death of the unborn baby. Under the current law, which allows for this form of murder to occur in the eyes of man as “lawful”, an abortion can be performed up to about 24 weeks into a 40 week pregnancy. At 24 weeks the baby is considered to be viable outside its mother’s womb. Many premature babies have survived premature birth thanks to the wonders of modern medicine and the technology available in hospital NICUs. Recently, my own cousin gave birth to a premature baby girl. She is now thriving and healthy despite being born a full month early. Two years ago one of my employees had a little boy, similarly, about a month early and today he is an amazing little guy who is such a blessing to have come to work with his mom so we all get to enjoy his life as he continues to thrive every day. But now, LD 1619 strives to give opportunity to murder these viable human beings because the “parents” have changed their mind about having the child in their lives. Murder because you changed your mind after 6, 7, 8, 9 months of massive changes to the “mother’s” own body just so you do not have to raise the tiny human! So many people are

waiting to adopt a baby that isn't wanted by the bio parents-no questions asked. Why not take this opportunity to make it easier for people to adopt and give loving homes to these babies?

The language in this bill states “After viability an abortion may be performed only when it is necessary in the professional judgment of a physician licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 36 or 48.” Let's talk about this with a couple real life situations I have had the opportunity to hear about directly. The first was one of my teachers in high school, who became pregnant later in her biological clock life. Her doctor recommended abortion due to her own age. This was a “professional judgment” on the part of her doctor. Thankfully she chose life for her beautiful healthy daughter (I was blessed to return the favor of being that child's teacher a few years later). Second, my own sister in law was told her 3rd child was going to be a boy with Down syndrome and they should consider abortion. This was a devastating option to their family. They realized the baby they created was a gift and they would gladly accept any challenges he would bring into their lives. When the big day arrived, in the delivery room, the doctor said as the baby was delivered, “**Oops, I was wrong**” because the Down syndrome baby boy was actually a perfectly healthy baby girl who today is a mother herself and a caregiver to her father who suffers with dementia. What a difference in our family's lives if they had trusted the “professional judgment” of their doctor.

During the gubernatorial debate on October 27, 2022, Governor Janet Mills stated “I have no plan to change the current law” when asked about Maine's abortion laws. Why then is she pushing the expansion of murder by abortion to a full term viable pregnancy with this bill?

Please vote **ought not to pass** on this bill, which makes premeditated murder of the most vulnerable among us “legal” in the eyes of what was once the great State of Maine.

Thank you,

Hon. MaryAnne Kinney

Knox. ME