

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Anne Porr; and I am a resident of Woolwich. My testimony opposes LD1619. If I did not have a prior unbreakable commitment, I would be delivering my testimony in person today.

Abortion for any reason at any time is too extreme for Maine. All children who can live outside their mother's womb should be given the chance to do so. Every human being is unique with unique contributions to make to our great state. This bill would prevent children who could survive outside the womb and thrive in life from doing so.

Furthermore, abortion often leaves a painful legacy. When my husband was in graduate school and our first child was two, we became good friends with another couple. During the subsequent two-year period, I had two babies die in my womb. When I shared that news with my friend, though I didn't see or know it right away, it changed her. For years she had suppressed in her mind that she had had two abortions in high school. Up until that time she and her husband had been happily married and devoted to each other. In the weeks and months after our conversation, her husband became concerned that she had begun flirting with other men and became distant emotionally from him. Eventually, he caught her in an affair, and she left him though he loved her every way he could. When I spoke with her, she had little to say other than telling me she had had the two abortions. She feared being condemned, and she didn't expect people to understand her leaving her husband. They subsequently divorced.

Years later she contacted my husband and me and told us she had felt such terrible guilt over her abortions and hated herself such that she had embarked on self-destructive behavior. She had since gotten help and got back to a healthier place.

Please don't multiply the possibility of this kind of pain, sadness, and relationship destruction for residents of Maine. Let's welcome into this world and love and support every future Mainer. Please vote ought not to pass. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Anne Porr