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Augusta  
LD 1619

I believe LD 1619 ought not to pass for the following reasons:

The Declaration of Independence stated that Life is an inalienable right given to us by our Creator.

The United States Constitution went on to say that no one should be deprived of that right without due process of law.

The question arises: At what point does human life begin? Science tells us that at the moment of conception a new organism with distinct DNA from its mother exists inside the mother.

Doctors exist for the express purpose of saving lives and keeping living persons healthy. However, sometimes a doctor faces an agonizing decision. He can save a mother, or the child, but not both. That decision may be made with input from the patient's family, but certainly the government should not have a voice.

Viability is understood to be the moment at which the child can survive outside the womb. At that moment, the relieved doctor can say, "Hooray, I can save both!"

Today, we also have Assisted Viability. With the assistance of Neonatal Healthcare, a premature infant may live at a much younger age than in the past.

My elected representative informed me that one reason for this bill is that a woman whose child could not survive had to travel out of state to obtain an abortion. Perhaps a narrow exception could have been written into the law for that situation. This bill is too ambiguous. It allows for unlimited abortions after viability if a doctor can be found who will approve them.

I want to end my remarks with a poetic thought. As I listened to the heavy rain this morning, I thought to myself, "God is shedding tears over the children of Maine who will be deprived of life because of this law."