



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good evening Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Honorable Members of Judiciary Committee. I am Representative Abigail Griffin and I represent District #34 which includes the towns of Glenburn, Kenduskeag and Levant. I am here to testify strongly against LD 1619, "An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws."

In the last couple of years, we have been devastated about the reports of children being abused and killed by their parents or guardian. We wonder how such a thing could happen in Maine. We have investigations and committee meetings to discuss how we can protect our children. The compassion of my colleagues has been expressed in so many ways that I have to believe misinformation has been given about the development of the baby in the womb and the abortion procedure.

Did you know at conception a baby has been given a gender, hair and eye color? At 22 days, the baby's heart starts to beat and at six weeks, it can be detected on an ultra sound. At 11 weeks the baby is sucking his/her thumb. At 21 weeks, a baby can feel pain and can hear sounds. At 24 weeks a baby can live outside of the womb. From there the baby grows until he/she is ready to be born.

I have concluded that those who support abortion must not understand what happens to a baby when it is aborted. A surgical abortion can be performed up to 22 weeks. Medicine is given to soften the cervix possibly the night before. A local anesthetic is injected into the cervix and is stretched with metal rods. A plastic tube is inserted in the uterus and connected to a vacuum device which pulls the baby's body apart and out. A curette is used to scrape out any remaining fetal parts out of the uterus.

The tissue is examined to verify the procedure is complete. The woman can experience hemorrhaging, infection and possible organ damage just to name a few possible risks.

When a later term abortion is performed a lethal injection is given to end the baby's life. The cervix is softened with medication and medication is given to induce labor. The deceased baby is delivered. The woman can experience severe

physical complications, not to mention the psychological and emotional effects which comes with abortion at any time. A woman knows deep down in her soul she has done something horrific and she will live with that forever. It won't matter if a law says it is okay.

Abortion is barbaric. We are appalled when children are abused and killed. How is this any different?

God created life from the moment of conception to natural death. Everyone is "fearfully and wonderfully made". Please search your hearts and protect our unborn children.

Thank you for your time.