

Emily Johnston  
Carmel  
LD 1619

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Carmel, Maine

Testimony of Emily Johnston

Oppose LD 1619

An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

Members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Emily Johnston and I oppose LD 1619. I live in Carmel, Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

I oppose LD 1619 because I believe that it should not be legal for a pregnant woman to abort her viable (capable of living) baby up to full term. According to <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/pregnancy>, the monthly stages of the baby during pregnancy are:

- First Month – The baby's head and trunk and beginnings of arms and legs, liver and digestive system have begun to develop and the heart starts to beat.
- Second Month – The heart starts to pump and the nervous system (including the brain and spinal cord) begins to develop. Arms, legs and all the major organs begin to appear. Facial features begin to form.
- Third Month – Major blood vessels and the roof of mouth are almost completed, fingers and toes appear, all major organs are now beginning to form, the kidneys are now functional and the four chambers of the heart are complete.
- Fourth Month – The baby can kick and swallow, hear, urinate and has established sleep cycles. All organs are fully formed and will continue to grow. The baby has skin, eyebrows, and hair.
- Fifth Month – The baby experiences rapid growth as its internal organs continue to grow. The mother may feel the baby move and can hear the baby's heartbeat with a stethoscope.
- Sixth Month – Even though the baby's lungs are not fully developed, a baby born during this month can survive with intensive care. The baby grows fast as its organs continue to develop.
- Seventh Month – There is a better chance that a baby born during this month will survive. The baby continues to grow rapidly and can suck its thumb and look around its watery womb with open eyes.
- Eighth Month – Growth continues and may move into head-down position for delivery.
- Ninth Month – Growth continues and the baby drops lower into the mother's abdomen and prepares for the onset of labor, which may begin any time between the 37th and 42nd week.

It's clear from the baby's monthly development during pregnancy that the baby is viable long before birth. Therefore legalizing abortion through the moment of birth is the ending of a viable life. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) defines abortion as pregnancy termination prior to 20 weeks' gestation. It just shows how extreme this proposed legislation is. I respectfully request that you oppose LD 1619.