

Jodi Bentley
Levant
LD 1619

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

My name is Jodi Bentley and I live in Levant, Maine. I am testifying in writing today in opposition of LD1619.

I'll never forget as a young child hearing the story of a couple who murdered their infant child, placed its body in a plastic bag, and deposited it in the trash. That couple was tried, found guilty and sentenced to prison terms. I'll never forget the feeling of incongruency as I grappled with the concept of abortion. What is abortion? I would define it as the intentional act of ending a baby's life while in utero. So then, logically, what is the difference between the ending of a life post-birth versus pre-birth? Who determines which lives are worth fighting for? Where is the limit to the termination of human life?

You, as the lawmakers, are deciding whether a baby can be killed up to the time of birth. Your decision today affects every single Mainer, today, tomorrow, and for the future to come. We need to stand up as a state and say that every single life has value. Every human life is worth fighting for.

Politically speaking, ALL Mainers have the right to life. It's a fundamental human right, recognized by our forefathers as an inalienable human right. I don't think they ever would have imagined how far we would fall for the sake of individual choice. What about the child's choice?

Morally speaking, empathy is worth standing up for, it is worth choosing to do the right thing. Just take a moment to consider your own mother, your own life. How many lives have you impacted? How many lives have been impacted by you? Your life has value. Every life does.

If it's a matter of choice, no baby chooses to die. If you wouldn't choose death for yourself, don't legislate it for others. Murder is murder. Terminating a life up to nine months of gestational age is really just the beginning of the end of our society.

If LD 1619 becomes law, it won't be long until the bill is for forced euthanasia and it might be your life on the line. Stand up for the dignity of human life, before your choice is taken from you. Disrespect for life has a beginning, this may be it, but who knows where will it end? It just may end with you.

Consider wisely. Please vote ought not to pass.