

Winnie Lee
Scarborough
LD 1619

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

My name is Winnie Lee. I am a resident of Scarborough and a mother of two young daughters. I am writing to testify in opposition to LD 1619. I am a child of Chinese immigrant parents raised in a tumultuous home environment. We were impoverished and my sisters and I were subject to emotional abuse and neglect. Despite such a negative upbringing, we each grew up to be successful adults. I worked in corporate finance in midtown Manhattan earning a comfortable salary. Because of my upbringing, I decided that I would not want to have children. Yet, ten years into my marriage, my husband and I were surprised to find out I was pregnant. There were many doubts and tears as I struggled emotionally about my pregnancy. My therapist at the time brought up the option of abortion. Due to my religious beliefs as a Christian, I did not indulge that option. Rather, I knew I was responsible for creating this life and I would take on the responsibility of raising my child. Little did I realize how my children are my greatest teachers on this side of earth. Becoming a mother has been such a healing process. I often reflect on my choice, had I decided to exert my will to live “freely” by choosing abortion over the rights of my unborn child, I would not have known the joys and sorrows of motherhood.

Our country provides us with tremendous freedom. However, freedom without responsibility is a slippery slope. According to Dr. Viktor Frankl, “Freedom, however, is not the last word. Freedom is only part of the story and half of the truth. Freedom is but the negative aspect of the whole phenomenon whose positive aspect is responsibility. In fact, freedom is in danger of degenerating into mere arbitrariness unless it is lived in terms of responsibility. That is why I recommend that the Statue of Liberty on the East Coast be supplemented by a Statue of Responsibility on the West Coast.”¹

Please oppose this bill that is extreme and unnecessary since our current law already addresses medical necessity abortions.

1. Frankl, V.E. (1992). *Man’s Search for Meaning*, 4th edition. Boston: Beacon Press, 134.