

Katie Wieninger
Cherryfield
LD 1619

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Maine Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Katie Wieninger. I am a twenty-nine year-old female living in Cherryfield, Maine.

I am writing this testimony to urge you to vote against LD1619 on the grounds that it will allow for the unethical violation of the most basic of human rights and that it will be detrimental to the health of expectant mothers seeking abortions.

First, it is morally wrong to allow abortions at any stage of pregnancy, but late-term abortions are especially inexcusable. Our founding fathers recognized and made provision to protect the right to life in both our state and federal founding documents. Killing the unborn is just as much a crime as any other murder.

Many who are prochoice argue that it is impossible to know when life really begins, but science, conscience, and commonsense all point to the fact that life begins at conception, not birth. Since LD1619 allows for abortions up to the moment of birth, it is even more evident that human life will be taken.

Human life at all stages is sacred. Genesis 1:27 tells us that God created men and women in His own image. The life He gives is to be valued, not thrown away by those more powerful. The Nazis used concentration camps to exterminate those that were unwanted because of their age, race, gender, religion, or perceived usefulness. In short, they killed those that were unwanted. Today in America, we use abortion to accomplish the same goal. May God have mercy on us! The value of a human life is not determined by how a doctor, pregnant woman, or politician feels about it. The value of life is determined by the God Who creates it.

LD1619 seeks to not only allow for late term abortions, but also to protect those committing abortions without a license. Many who are in favor of abortions have argued that they should be allowed on the grounds that women will seek them through less safe methods if they cannot obtain them legally. First, this is no excuse to take an innocent life. Secondly, there is no such thing as a safe abortion. Abortions intentionally result in one death, but they often cause the death of the mother, as well.

A study published in the Southern Medical Journal reports that women who have abortions are 62% more likely to die within eight years of their pregnancy compared to women who delivered their babies. Suicide rates are much higher in women who abort, as well. (DC Reardon et. al., "Deaths Associated With Pregnancy Outcome: A Record Linkage Study of Low Income Women," Southern Medical Journal 95(8):834-41, Aug. 2002)

These statistics will likely grow worse in Maine if LD1619 is passed because it will allow unlicensed persons to perform abortions penalty-free.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your time. Every one of you voting on this bill started out as a tiny life in your mother's womb. I urge you to vote against LD1619 and protect others from being stripped of the right to life that you have enjoyed.