

Jennifer Ruggiero
Portland
LD 1343

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Ruggiero, I live in Portland, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1619, LD 1343, and LD 776.

People's feelings shouldn't dictate medical decisions. People's beliefs shouldn't dictate medical decisions. People's religious convictions shouldn't dictate medical decisions for another person. Another's worry of the potential regret or emotional response someone might have to an action is theirs not mine. Every person must manage their own person. A freedom or right doesn't strip others from abstaining from pursuing choice, it only allows those in circumstances that need to make decisions the ability to do so.

I want to know that when any person seeks medical attention it is based on science and the latest medical research and that it is not based a politician's platform or someone else's religion. I want to know that medical professionals must provide care consistent with standards set by the medical community and care won't be based on the provider's particular beliefs or a politician's whim.

Debates rage about the definition of when life begins, the value of life, the right of something currently in progress of being formed. Though there are concrete truths in life, these are just social relativities evidenced by the wide-ranging policies present in other cultures. One truth is that without bodily autonomy we are not at liberty to make the best decisions for ourselves. Bodily autonomy should be a guaranteed right, in all aspects of life, and particularly with respect to healthcare.

For these reasons, please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1619, LD 1343, LD 776. Thank you for your time.