

Elizabeth Hays
Portland
LD 1619

I am Elizabeth Hays, I live in Portland and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1619.

I have much life experience dealing with pregnant women deciding whether or not to have an abortion. I was a pregnancy options counselor with Maine Family Planning for 6 years, I have counseled and supported friends who chose to have an abortion and I have had an abortion myself. I currently canvass for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England talking to women and men about their experiences and views on abortion.

The resounding opinion I hear is that it is the women body and therefore her choice to terminate a pregnancy, even later in pregnancy, with the advice of her doctor. From my experience I concur and feel it should remain a decision between a woman and her doctor when she should be able to get an abortion and not decided by Politicians.

Abortions later in pregnancy are rare due to the fact that it is a decision made by a woman who planned to continue with her pregnancy but there is now a severe fetal defect that makes the pregnancy not sustainable and possibly a threat to the woman's health. It is a very difficult decision and should not be made to be more complicated by legislation that states one week is OK to have an abortion and one week is not.

Please vote, Ought to Pass on LD 1619.

Thank you

Elizabeth Hays