

JAMES PEARCE
Roque Bluffs
LD 1619

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

My name is Jim Pearce , and I'm a resident of Roque Bluffs. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

In 1993 I was a missionary doing development work in a slum in Quito Ecuador. My wife and I had befriended Maria, a young woman, whose husband abandoned her because she was pregnant. He had done this twice before during two other pregnancies preferring to live with another women whose affections were un-inhibited by being with child. Maria was now on her third pregnancy and again found herself alone and without economic or emotional support. Her meager income came from the few jobs she could find cleaning house. Realizing her dire situation we took her under our wing and she became like a daughter to us.

We had been trying to start a family of our own but it turned out to be biologically impossible. 7 months into her pregnancy she came to us and said "I think God wants me to give you a piece of my heart, I think he wants me to give you, my baby." After much deliberation and prayer, we accepted and two months later we received one of the most precious gifts imaginable – a baby girl. Maria had given us the gift of parenthood. She had given me the opportunity to be a father. This fall I will proudly walk my daughter, Juliana, down the aisle at her wedding. My daughter, whose life has so enriched me and countless others.

Today hopeful couples wait months to years to find a child to adopt. So why, I ask, why on earth would we legalize ending the life of a viable, precious child when people are longing to embrace and love that very same child as their own? This bill erodes that opportunity as it will reduce the number of available children. Surely there is a better way. I beg of you, do not support taking life but support the gift of life to couples who are desperate to share their love with a child but due to no fault of their own cannot. Please vote no on this bill, "This bill ought not to pass."