

LD 1619

An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Hunter of Cherryfield, Maine.

I am writing to urge you to oppose LD 1619. As you know, this law would allow abortion on demand for any reason up to the very moment of birth and would remove penalties for those who perform abortions without a license. So in essence, this bill is about whether or not to legalize the free murder of babies. I vehemently oppose this bill and beg you to oppose this on behalf of every unborn child. As lawmakers, you have sworn to uphold the U.S. and State Constitutions to the best of your ability, so help me God. I ask you to do that now.

The suggestion that a baby can be murdered in the safest place (a mother's womb) is horrifying to begin with, and the proposal that a baby can be murdered moments before it enters this world is barbaric to say the least. To remove criminal penalties associated with an abortion performed without license, as well as giving freedom to murder babies at will, regardless of medical scope of "need" to mother or child is an act that removes the most basic right for any human – the right to life. Unborn babies are human beings - not just cells, not just fetuses as the writers of LD 1619 would suggest and would prefer you to think. At just 6 weeks of development, eyes are visible and teeth are forming. Gender can be learned as early as 10 weeks. At 20 weeks, they can feel pain. And at 24 weeks, they can hiccup and smile. Do not tell me they are mere cells – evidence infers otherwise.

As a mother who lost two babies to miscarriage, **I grieve those losses every single day**. I am unable to comprehend how you could support the legal murder of babies who are completely helpless. I would have done and tries to do anything to keep my babies safe and secure in my womb. I dreamt of delivering healthy and strong babies. I could do nothing to prevent my losses but I can urge you to vote against LD 1619 so that each baby has a fighting chance. So that each adoptive mother has a hope to give those children a warm loving home.

Are you aware of the traumatic aftereffects of abortion on the mother? Once that innocent CHILD (not fetus) is brutally and painfully murdered, what about the mother? Are you aware they are at risk for suicidal thoughts? What about a 6 times higher suicide rate? Can we look at the statistics that show they have a 154% higher risk of suicide? All the while not only has one life been taken, but now the mother must try to live with herself remembering the life she snuffed out by choice?

Why do we focus on killing when we could spend time and energy proposing laws to make adoption simple for mother, child and hopeful parent? Adoption allows for mothers like me to open our arms to welcome babies that others would cast aside. I urge you to encourage ADOPTION funding programs where life is given, mothers and babies are supported and urged to choose LIFE. Do not allow our country to stoop so low as to murder more innocent children. Whether or not you have children or have suffered a loss, I would bet you have at least one child in your life somewhere. Look at their face in your mind right now and imagine them being born, seconds from life and suddenly murdered. They are no more. Can you imagine the silent screams? I shudder at the thought.

Please oppose LD 1619. Thank you for your time.