

Susan Strickland
Brunswick
LD 1614

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

My name is Susan Strickland from Brunswick, Maine. I would like to add my voice in support of LD 1614 to require ultrasound and counseling before an abortion.

Like many, I have had a number of scans & tests for various health concerns. Twenty five years ago I was diagnosed with a life-threatening tumor which was also potentially malignant. I was required to receive multiple scans: ultrasound, MRI, and CT scans to determine the placement, size, and other features that I might be treated accordingly. After each scan I was given personal, one-on-one consultation with the radiologist and doctor. I was shown my scans and each feature was thoroughly explained to me so that I knew exactly what I was up against. This was deemed "necessary" for proper treatment.

In my case the tumor was a disease, yet I was given full access to information about it. LD 1614 is simply requiring the same medical treatment for a pregnant woman - except that there is the potential of removing not disease but another human life. Each woman should be required (per usual medical practices) to not only have an ultrasound but to see it and have every aspect explained to her.

I could have denied treatment after seeing the results of the scans of my tumor and tests, but I could have died. LD 1614 simply ensures that women are given the full picture before there is a guarantee of death - that of the baby inside her womb.

Thank you.