

Joanne Russell
North Yarmouth
LD 1614

An Act to Require an Ultrasound and Certain Counseling Before an Abortion, LD 1614

Position: Support

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Joanne Russell, from North Yarmouth, ME. I submit this testimony in writing today to speak in Support of LD 1614, An Act to Require an Ultrasound and Certain Counseling Before an Abortion.

This should be your easiest vote today. Informed consent is a complete no-brainer with regard to good medical care and coverage. Just like no good doctor, dentist, or medical healthcare provider would ever perform a procedure unless he or she knew exactly what it was they were treating, and was very clear as to what the desired outcome of the procedure would be; no patient should ever enter into a medical procedure or consent to medical treatment unless they are adequately informed as to what exactly their condition is, and what exactly is to be done with regard to the medical intervention to which they are consenting.

Not only is this truly informed consent on behalf of the patient reasonable, rational, and humane; it is the only just manner in which to approach any medical procedure. This informed consent becomes even more important in the case of performing a surgical abortion or prescribing pills to perform a chemical abortion. The reason for this is clear, an abortion is a medical procedure that is a final, irreversible, and completely voluntary procedure that ends another human beings life.

There are countless numbers of women who find out exactly what an abortion procedure entails, as they stare down at the tiny body of their now deceased child having passed it into a toilet alone at home, often with no one they can turn to in their pain, shame, and grief. We see the tragic result of this in the rising numbers of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, suicides, and so on. They are all interrelated. Women must know what they are consenting to when they agree to an abortion. They must see their child via ultrasound before they agree to the procedure that will end its life, and they must be given adequate counseling and information as to what exactly will happen if they chose to proceed with the procedure. This is true for any other medical procedure and is even more so in the case of an elective abortion procedure.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote: Ought to Pass on LD 1614.
Thank you! God bless.