

May 5, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Judiciary, I am Norman Moyer of Waterville, Maine.

I am providing this written testimony of my support of LD 1614, An Act to Require an Ultrasound and Certain Counseling Before an Abortion.

Abortion is an invasive, irreversible procedure that produces the death of a human life and effects the mother in many adverse ways. Unless there is a medical emergency, it should not be rushed through in a panicked manner by the mother. A 48 hour waiting period from informed consent by a health care professional plus the performance of an ultrasound is reasonable considering what is at stake. I have had several medical procedures where I wished I asked further questions to weigh the costs verses the benefits. (A finger surgery to remove a cyst, but I lost partial feeling in the finger. A stomach/hiatal hernia surgery to control GERD, but it is still with me.) The surgeries are in the past, but I live with the results in the present. What we are looking at here is of far more significance.

Ultrasound is a normal, non-invasive tool used in pregnancies. It needs to be required by any contemplating an abortion.

The use of ultrasound in the setting of pregnancy is vast and has become the standard of care in the evaluation of pregnant women. The average number of ultrasounds performed during pregnancy has increased from 1.5 in 1995 to 1997 to 2.7 in 2005 to 2006, with even higher numbers of ultrasound studies obtained for high-risk pregnancies. (Dewald O. Ulrich CC, NIH)

Ultrasound is safe for you and your baby when done by your health care provider. Because ultrasound uses sound waves instead of radiation, it's safer than X-rays. Providers have used ultrasound for more than 30 years, and they have not found any dangerous risks.

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/pregnancy/ultrasound-during-pregnancy#:~:text=Does%20ultrasound%20have%20any%20risks,not%20found%20any%20dangerous%20risks.>

I urge you to vote 'ought to pass' on LD 1614. I also recommend that LD 494, LD 771, LD 1197, LD 1249, LD 1410, and LD 1809 be voted 'ought to pass'.

Thank you for your consideration and time!