

Dear Senators, Representatives, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. I am Diana Gallant of the town of Washington.

I am here to testify in respect to LD 1619. I implore you to deeply reflect on this pivotal issue. This bill would allow a baby that can survive outside the womb to be killed. Please vote "Ought NOT to Pass."

I speak from my experience as a mother, parent, woman, human and especially as an elder of 60+ years. There is no substitute for life experience from which yields wisdom. Wisdom is earned from making mistakes, observing, and reflecting upon the impact our actions.

This is a time to lead with wisdom and compassion. Intentionally choosing to terminate a life is an act of disrespect, desperation, and destruction for both the baby and the woman whose life is also diminished as a human being. This is not life-affirming behavior.

I think many people would agree that we are at a critical tipping point which I would describe as a crisis of consciousness. We must remember that life is a gift and of all of us, babies are closest to God. Ignoring our moral duty to protect the innocent and vulnerable is not an option if we are to remain human and humane.

As a leader, Maine has an unprecedented opportunity to lead the country by standing up for life! Thank you for your consideration.