

Logan Vail
Gorham
LD 780

Senator Carney, Representative Monnen, and the members of the Maine Legislative Committee on Judiciary, I am Logan Vail, a senior at Gorham High School who attends Bible Believing Baptist Church. I'm doing an Extended Learning Opportunity with the Christian Civic League of Maine and am in the Maine Army National Guard. Most importantly, I am a worried citizen who fears the dehumanization of the most innocent among us: children.

Everyone here values bodily autonomy. Nobody wants an overbearing state looking down at your every move. But at the same time, we all also recognize that bodily autonomy is not absolute. It's not the end all be all. Bodily autonomy is never absolute. There are a bunch of laws that legislate what we have to do with our own bodies that are largely uncontroversial. We have to wear seat belts, we can't walk around naked in public, we can't neglect our children, we can't shoot up heroin, you can't stand up as the plane is taking off, you can't drink in certain places, etc. You'd be laughed out of court if you used 'my body my choice' as a defense for committing such crimes. And if those qualify as valid exceptions, then saying we can't slaughter innocent children in the womb certainly qualifies as well.

The crux of the issue of life. Life is so valuable. Life has to take precedence over bodily autonomy because it is the right without which there can be no other rights. The Declaration of Independence recognizes the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Without life you cannot have liberty, and without liberty you cannot have the pursuit of happiness. Life takes precedence over liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and all other rights because it is the foundation of everything else that we value.