

Diana Collins  
Orrington  
LD 335

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Committee On Health and Human Services.

It has been my joy and privilege as a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer for over 40 years to personally observe over and over the miracle of a tiny human being developing in the womb. I've watched the tiny flicker of a moving heart appear at just 5-6 weeks after conception and I've held my breath along with anxious parents searching for one not yet seen at 7-8 weeks. I've watched tiny limb buds develop into hands and feet with delicate, countable fingers and toes at just 11-13 weeks. Then in third trimester I saw them grow into those pudgy sweet scented tiny perfect hands, feet, fingers and toes that at birth draw the delighted kisses of new parents and grandparents.

Peering into the womb I marveled at babies kicking around and sometimes even pummeling a twin with tiny clenched fists. I saw hiccuping, yawning, smiling, swallowing, urinating and even on occasion gesturing with a middle finger. I looked inside the Mom, inside the womb, inside the developing baby, then inside their tiny grape sized heart to see 4 chambers and tiny exquisite heart valves opening and closing. It was indeed a marvel. It was indeed a privilege. It was indeed a miracle.

There were times in high risk pregnancies a needle had to be inserted into the womb to extract amniotic fluid. If the tip of that needle somehow touched an arm or leg that baby would instantly recoil. You will never convince me that baby did not feel pain.

The truth of abortion is that a tiny miracle of new life is shattered into dismembered flesh. Honorable men and women must never be a part of such a grievous act. Nor should honorable Legislatures force Christians or any other enlightened, compassionate, honorable constitutionist or constituent to fund such an act of pernicious atrocity either directly or indirectly.

I call upon the honor and integrity of each and every one of you, as duly elected Representatives of the State of Maine and its people, born and unborn to stand firmly against LD 335 and vote ought not to pass!

Respectfully yours,  
Diana Collins