

*Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary my name is Gayle Baber and I reside in Dedham, Maine*

*I come to speak in support of the following bills*

**LD 494    LD 771    LD 1197    LD 1249    LD 1614**

I am a lifelong Maine resident born and raised in Caribou I met my husband while I was an exchange student in college and imported him back to my great state of Maine We have 4 living children working, in health-related fields and 2 who we lost through miscarriage Our youngest, twin daughters born at 34 weeks remained hospitalized for a month so I understand the delicate balance of life

On Monday I listened to testimony from pro choice advocates including those mothers who valued and wanted the babies they carried, but were unable to because of biological anomalies preventing a viable life for their unborn child

Others believed it was their body and their choice regarding their “reproductive rights” Sadly, it sounded like they were seeking “recreational rights” to have sexual encounters with casual or unsafe partners IWith every choice, there IS a consequence sometimes good and sometimes bad Maine residents should not be forced to pay for the misguided encounters of others through taxation and increased insurance premiums

Our efforts should be **proactive** in advance of unplanned pregnancies to educate, inform and provide resources to potential parents making them fully aware of the consequences of their choices Otherwise, our financial and moral wheels will continue to spin, and unborn babies will continue to pay the real price I worry about the Maine my 3-1/2 year old grandson will grow up in

I ask the committee, to vote Ought to Pass on LD 494, LD 771, LD 1197, LD 1249, and LD 1614.

Thank you all for the many long hours you have listened to testimony for those supporting both the rights of a mother and her unborn child

Before voting on the many abortion-related bills this session, I respectfully ask each of you to consider visiting both an abortion clinic and a pregnancy resource center, and/or to view the 2019 movie, “Unplanned” to see the path(s) we need to take to protect ALL Maine lives