

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Christina Ouellette and I live in Bradley. I am here today in support of all five bills before you, and I am here to speak specifically in support of LD 1614.

I 100% agree that an ultrasound should be performed before an abortion can be performed. Even now in 2023, women are often led to believe that the baby growing inside them is nothing but a clump of cells or tissue. An ultrasound would confirm to the mother the truth, whether or not she chooses to look at the results. Some women will base their choice of whether or not to move forward with the pregnancy on the results of an ultrasound; others will not. But not allowing her all of the information available to make a choice should be unacceptable.

When a person is diagnosed with a severe illness or disease that requires surgery or some other type of intervention, would it be appropriate for a physician to convince the patient to just do what he or she says without giving proof of the diagnosis? Of course not. X-rays, lab tests and other tests would be performed and presented to the patient, who would then be able to make an informed decision of how to proceed with any type of treatment. How often are we told to request a second opinion so we can be positive we have as much information as possible? Shouldn't pregnant women be afforded that same opportunity?

I have volunteered at a pregnancy center in the past, and I can tell you that an ultrasound is an invaluable tool to the women who present with a pregnancy. Can we please allow pregnant women to be treated with dignity and respect? Give them the opportunity to have all of the necessary information needed to make the best decision for themselves. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1614 and the other bills you are considering today.

Thank you for allowing me to speak at this hearing

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