

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Katrin Howes, and I am a resident of Whitefield. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I'm here to stand up for those without a voice. I have three things I want to say. First, those who put together this bill, please make sure you did not bring this forth simply as a reaction to the states that have enacted laws to ban abortions at earlier stages of pregnancy. The law in Maine is safe. It already provides for legal abortion for the medical necessity of the mother. Maine is not at risk of losing abortion.

Second, you might think that your constituents who are pro-choice are for this bill. Please remember they too might be under the false impression that the loss of legal abortion in Maine is a threat. When I learned about late term abortion years ago, I happened to be right before a little trip I took with some of my very pro-choice friends. They were shocked and in disbelief that anyone would be in favor of late-term abortion even up to the point of birth. Make sure the people you represent actually understand what this means.

Third, earlier this evening somebody here challenged any of you in favor of this bill to actually watch a late-term abortion, and if you can stomach watching in detail, to go ahead and vote in favor. I don't want you to forget that. Please don't take this vote lightly. My teenage son voiced that he didn't want to be here, because he feared seeing pictures of discarded tiny human limbs. I told him he has to look at the truth to know why we must be here. You who will be voting on this also must look at the results of your decision. We are not even allowed to call these little humans, people. Think about that, please. We hear the term ending a pregnancy, or a medical procedure. If we have to hide the truth behind ~~misleading~~ words, how can we honestly say this is morally okay.

Lastly, the little data that we have on those who have had late-term abortions suggests that the majority of those seeking them are not because of a grave reason for the mother's health. No, they still are mostly because the mother has a hardship and is likely scared of raising a child. It's not because one or both are at risk of actual death. Let's help those mothers instead of insisting the only answer is to kill and brutally dismember the most vulnerable among us.