Madam Chair and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, My name is Wendy Merrill and I live in Benton. I am testifying today in opposition to LD 1619.

Governor Mills proposed bill allowing abortion up to 9 months is nothing short of wicked. Abortion up to 9 months?!! Who are we? Who have we become?

The Governor would have us believe this would be rare. Where have we heard that before? Safe. Legal. RARE. Remember that? At least 25% of women have aborted. Not rare. The 'rare' was a lie perpetuated in order to make killing our children palatable. The terminology of LD 1619 does not limit to rare cases. As a matter of fact, it erases any stipulation. There are no limits at all!

A New York Times article published on Dec. 31, 2022, quotes Augustine Fuentes, an Anthropologist at Princeton University, "We think we are having a debate in the U.S. about when life begins, but we are not. We are having a debate about when society is going to decide when the person counts, & not only when the person counts, but WHICH person counts more."

Have we come to a place in society where mothers think they count more than their child? Every mother I know would take a bullet in order to protect her child. She would sacrifice her own life in order to save her child. This is what mothers are made of. It seems this bills' focus is on the stronger, more powerful, more developed mother. The innocent, weak, powerless baby is left with no defense at all.

This is worth mentioning; after a woman chooses to abort her child and the dust has settled, there comes a point where she realizes that instead of sacrificing herself for her child, she literally sacrificed her child for herself. In the deepest places of a woman's soul, this reality wrecks her. I know this from personal experience and from more than a decade of helping women heal after abortion. If aborting a baby in the first trimester devastates women, imagine what it will do to those that abort a baby at 9 months.

The overwhelming majority of Mainers (including those who approve of early abortion) adamantly oppose this extreme legislation that would exterminate our most valuable resource: BABIES.

Should our new motto be "Maine. Our once peaceful state - now shrouded in a dark, foreboding cloud, where the shed blood of innocent babies flows over our land, coursing through our streams and rivers. Where we kill our babies and yours too at our expense while selling our souls. No limits. Any reason. Just come. Maine. The Way Life Should(n't) Be."

This is barbaric. Enough is enough. This insanity must STOP! Join the overwhelming majority of infant-loving Mainers and vote 'ought not to pass'.