

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Raychel Ward, and I live in Livermore Falls. I represent Pro-life Ministries of Maine as well as Speak Up for Life.

I am speaking in opposition to LD1619. As I looked at senators and representatives in support of this bill I was shocked to see Colleen Madigan there after working with her to get more help into the behavioral health needs of our children. I am pro life for their whole life. I have worked hard both in our state and federally to reform our child protection laws and policies as well as our unhoused population.

Now that we know each other I have two children. Ahshilee is eight years old and was born at thirty two weeks gestation. I was told from twenty weeks on that she had a genetic abnormality and would never reach the age of four.. That genetic abnormality has amounted to nothing. Her birth was early due to my own eclampsia. Now at the age of eight, an age we were told she would never reach, she participates in girl scouts, karate, plays sports, and is very bright. If this new bill were to pass many children like my daughter will not have the chance to show parents and doctors that abnormalities on screenings can be and are wrong.

Why would we fight to save one child's life but end another? If the definition of murder in our state laws states, "A person is guilty of murder if the person intentionally or knowingly causes the death of another human being; engages in conduct that manifests a depraved indifference to the value of human life, and that in fact, causes the death of another human being." Title 17-A, §201: Murder

Would it be different because a child's mother chose it? Or are we going to redefine murder as well? Please vote ought not to pass.