

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

My name is Jolene Martin, of Bradley. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1619.

When I was nineteen, I ended up pregnant and was uncertain of what to do. I called the local pregnancy resource center and requested a free pregnancy test. The woman sat across from me and explained how these tests measure a hormone you only make when you're pregnant, so I most definitely was pregnant. That truth sank in only a little, as I started preparing for a new life.

Fast forward to twenty-eight weeks and I ended up giving birth prematurely. At two pounds, my son was breathing with the help of tubes, and had a hole in his heart.

Being a young mother, when the doctor recommended that my son be treated with medication over surgery, I followed his advice instead of trusting the nagging feeling I had that told me otherwise. I believe God was trying to show me the way. Surgery for PDA, my son's condition, in an infant has a 0% fatality rate, according to paperwork I read in the doctor's office.

The medicine for his heart reacted with the medication they'd given him to help his premature lungs develop and ended up blowing a hole through my son's stomach. Because of this error and its disastrous outcome, my baby had three major surgeries to try to repair the damage before he finally died at seven days old.

I later found out that the reason they didn't want to do surgery was because there was no on call surgeon available. This was not disclosed to me when the doctor presented my options.

In closing, I'd like to point out that without the help and encouragement from the pregnancy resource center, I might have made a different choice for my child. And I'd also like to point out that doctors, even with their years of degrees, are not infallible. Why would we allow people with less education to take a chance on mother's and babies' lives?

Please vote ought not to pass.

Thank you!

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