

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

State House, Room 438

May 1, 2023

LD 1619: "An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws"

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Gary Foster and I am from the Town of Gray. I stand before you in opposition to LD 1619.

As with all of you, I am able to be here because I was not the victim of an abortion, for which I thank God and good parents.

Current Maine statutes allow for the termination of an unborn child, even in late term if the health or life of the baby or mother is at risk.

LD 1619 allows for any child to be terminated at any time up to delivery by eliminating the special circumstances that permit ending the life of a late term baby, leaving it up to the opinion of a physician. Even if it is deemed "necessary" to end an unborn child's life, that should have been determined long before a pregnancy approached full term.

I read the story of a couple who were missionaries, serving in The Philippines in the 1980's. In 1987 the woman contracted amoebic dysentery from contaminated water and was treated with high doses of antibiotics. When it was learned that she was pregnant, doctors stopped the drugs, but said the high doses of drugs likely damaged the fetus and recommended abortion. Being a Christian couple they could not end a life and refused. She delivered a malnourished, but otherwise healthy baby. That baby is today an athletic, mature adult with a passion for pursuing his ambitions. His name is Tim Tebow. So even a physician's opinion may not always be the right decision, and particularly when it comes to this bill where there is no stipulation for special circumstances "necessary" to end the life of a child in late term.

The other issue I have with this bill is eliminating the penalty if an unqualified person performs an abortion. Though the qualifications of a person who may perform an abortion remain unchanged, there is no deterrent for any person to attempt the procedure. I can't believe any rational, thinking person would consider this a good idea.

Though I value life as a gift from our Creator, and do not support the termination of an unborn life, I urge the committee to oppose this bill, and allow the current law to remain as is.

Respectfully,
Gary Foster
Gray, Maine