

May 1, 2023

LD 1619 Hearing
Speak Up For Life

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

When I was 20 years old I became pregnant. It was my one and only opportunity to have a child. At 34.5 weeks my water broke and I was set to deliver. What happened next was out of my control as my son sustained a traumatic brain injury during the birthing process. Here are some facts about my son: At 34.5 weeks he weighed 5lbs. 8oz, was 20 ¼ inches long and had fully developed lungs. Had he not sustained a brain injury we would have been able to bring him home within a few days. We were told that if I had gone full term he would have weighed about 10 lbs.

I have always supported the pro choice movement, however my stance has changed after learning about the LD 1619 bill regarding late term/full term abortion.

Many medical advances have been made since 1973 Roe vs. Wade. Recently I read an article about a 22 week (gestation) age child in Maine going home.

Maine already has 24 week abortion on the books, Maine already allows medical reasons to terminate after this date.

I urge you to vote AGAINST this bill as it would make Maine one of the most excessive abortion laws in the country. Maine has always been known as "Vacation Land", allowing on-demand, full term abortions is not something I want Maine to be known for.

Again I urge you to vote against this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration and the opportunity to voice my concerns as a lifetime Maine resident.