

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Judiciary Committee, my name is Dianne Fazio and I am a resident of Westbrook. I'm here today to testify in opposition to LD 1619."

I remember when "safe, legal, and rare" was the pro-choice slogan. That was dropped about ten years ago because it was no longer true. Late-term abortion is not safe and it is not health care. We know that it poses greater medical risk to the mother. And her safety would be further jeopardized with the passing of LD 1619. Because it eliminates any serious penalties for an unlicensed person who provides an abortion illegally, we could actually see an increase in illegal abortions.

Pro-abortion leaders have been advancing more and more extreme abortion laws, but gradually, in an effort to desensitize us to the *cruelty* of late-term abortion. The hope is that we'll eventually accept even abortion-on-demand until the moment of birth. But, we *can't* do that because it violates our basic human decency. We cannot and will not accept infanticide! Can you imagine being present, watching on a screen while a baby who's past the point of viability is destroyed inside the womb? I doubt you could. I know I wouldn't be able to.

No woman hopes to one day have an abortion. We know it's often coerced by the partner or another person. As a woman's pregnancy advances, she's already bonding with this little life inside her and, without being pressured into abortion, she may be more inclined to accept support and resources offered for herself and her child. This extreme and unconscionable bill, if made into law, would encourage more to abortions at any stage of pregnancy and for any reason.

*On a personal note:* From time to time when this topic comes up, an image comes into my mind of myself in the future, sitting with my grandchildren when one of them asks, "Grandma, what did *you* do to save babies during the abortion holocaust?" I want to assure that child that I did the best I could to protect human life.