

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

Hello, my name is Jennifer Ramos and I live in Orrington. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Congratulations! Congratulations to everyone in this room that is here today. Your mother decided life was the important gift she could give you. Aren't you glad that the day before you were born that she didn't change her mind and tragically end your life? So you are here! You are here at this moment to listen to the testimony of hundreds of people who believe that life begins with a heart beat and that all life is sacred.

When I was pregnant with our third child my OBGYN surprised us with the news that we were having twins at our 8 week appointment. Within a few days I had to go back to the doctor because I was bleeding. He took a closer look and realized that one of the twins had implanted on my c-section scar. The baby's heartbeat was very slow and we were told that the baby would not survive the pregnancy.

This started a few scary months of continuous bleeding, monitoring, and appointments with my doctor and with specialists. The specialist I saw at 12 weeks recommended an immediate abortion of both babies for my health and safety. No consideration was given to the perfectly healthy baby growing inside of me or to the fact that I wasn't having any other pregnancy complications or issues. Other than monitoring the c-section scar this was just like any other of my pregnancies. The specialist said it would be an easy in-and-out procedure and then we could just start over. Just start over. She wanted to quickly and easily eliminate my baby. Like it was a mark on the chalkboard that you could just erase and then start writing the next lesson on.

Six months later, right on her due date we had the most beautiful little girl. She was delivered with no complications and is now a thriving 10 year old 5th grader. She loves to read, loves dogs (most of the time more than people, although that is a very close race) and is such a light in this world that a doctor was willing to quickly extinguish before Isabella even had the chance to shine. In this world you never know how or when your light is going to shine. Don't let people extinguish it before you have a chance to find it. I strongly encourage you, with every strength of my being, to oppose this bill. It is murder. It is taking the life of a baby that has no defense. If this atrocious crime was committed, in some cases just hours or days later, after they were born it would be considered murder. If the end of your life is signified by the stopping of your heart beat, shouldn't the beginning be signified by the starting of your heart beat.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. Please vote ought not to pass.