

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

My name is Suzette Furrow, I am a resident of Bangor. I am here to testify in opposition to LD1619. This bill would allow an Abortion at ANY time for ANY Reason. This bill is too extreme and unnecessary. The current law already addresses viability and allows for medical necessity in case of still birth, ectopic pregnancy, etc.

It has been noted in local newspapers that the abortion rate in Maine has decreased. I have never read an article about anyone complaining that they were not able to have an abortion in this state or that they were denied an abortion. 65% of Mainers do not support late term abortion. There is no evidence to support that expanding abortions rights is necessary. Maine has an elderly population; instead of promoting the ending of a life that is just beginning, we should encourage new life. A baby is the greatest gift. All of us in this room, democrats, republicans and unenrolled have been given this wonderful gift by our mothers. Life has no political affiliation.

If this bill passes, Maine will have one of the most extreme abortion laws in the country. I support life in a state where the slogan is, "Maine the way LIFE should be". There is also a popular show with the title Maine LIFE. When you drive into the state of Maine, the sign greeting you reads, "Welcome Home". When we think of home, we think of the place where we live, where there is love and where there is LIFE. Maine should not be a state where people come to end the life of a baby that is trying to have a home.

My father, the late Representative Arthur Verow was a democrat. He was also pro-life. He came to the capitol building with our family for the Hands Around the Capitol and supported pro-life legislation. This is not a political party issue this is a humanity issue. You cannot have human rights or civil rights without the sanctity of life, you cannot have women's rights either since half of the babies aborted are female. For the sake of the future generations of our state and the reputation of our state I urge you all to oppose this bill as well as the other two Bills dealing with abortion, LD 776 and LD1343.