

Life

Senator Carney, Rep Moonen and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Comm on Judiciary:

My name is Michael Ozga, and I'm a resident of Durham, ME. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Driving north from NH on I95, the first sign we see proclaims the following: "Maine, the way life should be." The Progressive/Abortion lobby in this country and Maine has "progressed" from safe, legal and rare, to late term abortion and now abortion upon demand. As a civilized people, is this what we call progress? Is this "The way life should be?" The questions, of course, are rhetorical as the answers are self-evident.

American law followed common law throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. By the time the 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868, 75% of our states had laws on the books that made abortion a crime at any point during the pregnancy. That consensus endured until the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. By a vote of 7-2, the court conferred a broad right to obtain an abortion invoking the "right to privacy" and "due process" language within the 1st, 4th, 5th, 9th and 14th Amendments. In other words, the 1973 court inferred a right that does not exist within The Constitution, but they claimed is, nevertheless, protected by the Bill of Rights. The logic is absurd on its face.

In 1992, the court upheld Roe by a 5-4 majority invoking "stare decisis." In 2022, by a vote of 5-1-3, the 1973 Roe case and 1992 Casey decision was overturned. The three justices that argued to uphold both Roe and Casey made no substantive argument, they relied simply on "stare decisis" which is Latin for, "to let things stand." However, "stare decisis" is not an inexorable command. It is a principle of policy. Otherwise, both Dred Scott (1857) and Plessy (1896) would still be law. Thank God they are not, as the Dred court ruled that slaves were, indeed property, and the Plessy decision upheld segregation laws.

Stare decisis has been invoked when it fits the courts ideology and ignored when it does not. This is not progress, nor the way life should be.

Eugenics, forced sterilization laws, legalized abortion, late term abortions and now abortion on demand. All this under the euphemisms of "progress," "reproductive rights" and "choice." Can we look at ourselves in the mirror and honestly consider this "progress" or "the way life should be?" As a Constitutional Republic, we are a self-governing society. With self-governance comes freedom, with freedom comes responsibility. The concepts of freedom and responsibility are mutually inclusive. One cannot exist without the other. However, when it comes to abortion the left is vociferous about their "freedom" to choose yet want total abdication from any responsibility of that choice. This is the behavior of children not free adults.

If viewed through the prism of life this issue would transcend ideologies. That would indeed, be progress and most certainly, the way life should be!

I'll end this by quoting the 18th century economist and philosopher, Edmund Burke; "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."