

May 1, 2023

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rhonda Loncto. I live in Fletchers Landing Township, also known as Central Hancock.

I am testifying today to request that you vote “ought not to pass” on bill LD 1619 titled, “An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws”.

At first glance, the name of the bill sounds quite harmless but it is very misleading. Why not be honest with Maine taxpayers and have the title of the bill read “An Act to Terminate Viable Pre-born Babies, Without Penalties”. The “Privacy” angle sounds great to most of us. Who doesn't want privacy? That is what we sign every time we go see our doctor, you know... “HIPPA” ?

Currently, here in the “great” state of Maine, abortions are allowed up to 24 weeks gestation, or 6 months; a time frame that was determined that the baby could not live outside of the womb. But that is not true anymore. Many babies have lived at 22 weeks, including a recent report where a baby born at 22 weeks, weighing only one pound, 2 ounces, has defied the odds and is now at home, hopefully beginning a wonderful life for many years to come.

LD 1619 eliminates the “penalties”. I question the reason for this? The current abortion bill states: “Any person not so licensed who knowingly performs an abortion on another person or any person who knowingly assists a nonlicensed person to perform an abortion on another person is guilty of a Class C crime.” What was wrong with this portion of the bill? Does it need to be stricken from the bill as it would hinder access to abortions at anytime, anywhere, for any reason, performed by anyone?

I will close with this prayer- Dear Heavenly Father, I lift up these precious souls who have been placed in authority over the people. They will be hearing or have already heard testimony by many who are either for or against this proposed bill. Lord, speak to them as we are speaking up for life. May they be guided by Your wisdom. Give them boldness to also “speak up for life”. In Jesus name, Amen.

Thank you and may God bless you all.

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