

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

My name is Susan Forbes, and I am a resident of Presque Isle. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Usually the death of a child is a sad event. So very sad. Yet when it comes to induced abortion, somehow whether the child was "wanted" or not has great weight. I imagine most of the people who are shot, stabbed, poisoned, or otherwise killed every day were "unwanted" by someone-- their killer, at least.

In contrast: the unborn. Current state law allows them to be killed before "viability". There is also language permitting the baby's life to be terminated after viability "to preserve the life or health of the mother". I say the state of Maine allowing abortion through the time of viability (plus the provision for the life of the mother thereafter) is ENOUGH permission to kill.

Casting aside how sad it is that a mother has regarded her child so "unwanted" as to seek some procedure or some agent to terminate that life—current law allows this through the point of viability. I mean, if that child were somehow magically outside of his or her mother's womb, he or she would not be able to survive—likely even with the best neonatal care. That seems like ENOUGH provision for abortion. ENOUGH opportunity for a young woman to risk long term regret.

Yet, this is apparently not ENOUGH for the many cosponsors of LD 1619. This bill would allow abortion at any point in the pregnancy. Babies that could be viable outside the womb can now be killed and caused to leave the womb.

I don't believe we are serving women better to lengthen the gestational window for legal abortion. What pain will that cause? What emotional distress? What unending grief and feelings of guilt? Even self-loathing.

Who will bear these emotional burdens for a woman who felt legally permitted to starve, poison, dismember, and expel the would-be fruit of her own womb?

Will the physician whose professional judgment permitted it?

Will the governor who requested this bill?

Will the many cosponsors of LD 1619?

Abortion through "viability". That's ENOUGH. **Please vote 'ought not to pass'.**