

## TESTIMONY AGAINST LD 1619

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

My name is Patty Browning, and I am a resident of Mapleton. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I am opposed to LD 1619 because it is too extreme. I have talked to many people who are pro-life, pro-choice and those who claim to be neither, about this bill and they all repeat "you mean it would be allowed up to and including 9 months?". They just shake their heads and say "what are they thinking?" The pro-choice people always said, "I'm for choice but that is too extreme".

How can we think of a 5-9 month old baby and not care that their life can be taken at any moment for any reason? Just because they are not wanted, they are too small, they do not yet have a voice, does not mean that they do not have the right under the Constitution to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

When we push abortion laws to the extreme, such as late term abortion, it creates a lack of love and cherishing of human life. When society becomes callous to the taking of human life, especially the life of a baby ready to be born, it is a short step to more extreme laws, such as peri-natal abortion and also puts the mentally ill, Down's Syndrome children, as well as the old and infirm in danger of extreme suicide assistance laws.

I had a very close friend who got pregnant right after high school and had an abortion followed by another pregnancy and another abortion. Even though she now has two beautiful daughters, she regrets the abortions and it affected her first marriage. This is what abortion does, it haunts women through their lives. Our local Pregnancy Care Center in addition to all the assistance they provide women, also provides abortion recovery, and women who have had an abortion 25-30 years prior have come to the Center asking for help with recovering from the haunting pain caused by abortion. Can you imagine how much more pain would be caused after a late term, ready-to-be-born baby is aborted?

Please do not let Maine become known as "the extreme abortion law State", with late/full term babies beating hearts stopped and where those who survive abortion would be left to die.

Please vote **ought not to pass**.

Thank you.