

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 1619

By: Patty Whiting, R.N.

Good afternoon. I am Patty Whiting and I am a resident of Scarborough and a nurse in Portland.

For the past 50 years, Maine law has allowed abortions until the fetus is "viable." "Viability" is the point at which a baby can be removed from the mother and survive outside the womb..

The bill that you are currently considering would allow a woman to kill her baby after it is viable for any reason, or no reason. This is unbelievable. This is murder!

The only situation I can think of that would cause a woman to terminate her pregnancy after her baby is viable - other than for her life or health, which is already allowed under Maine law - would be if she discovers late in her pregnancy that her baby is defective in some way. However, if a woman cannot cope with raising a special needs child, she should not be allowed to kill it. At that point - after viability - she can either wait and deliver the baby or have it removed, and then put it up for adoption. Many couples are anxiously waiting to adopt special needs babies.

As a nurse I work with brain injured patients; and I can tell you that they are just as human and wonderful and deserving of life as everyone else.

I know the enormous pressure that a woman who is considering abortion is under. I found myself pregnant my freshman year of collage. The decision was excruciating - whether to abort, to keep, or to place my baby for adoption. I ended up doing the latter, and I got to meet my daughter face to face when she was 20. I have become so close with her and her wonderful family. She is so glad I let her live. It was a decision we both could live with, whereas abortion kills the baby and wounds the woman.

All my friends who have aborted have regretted it deeply. They thought it would fix the problem but, instead, they've had much difficulty not feeling pervasive guilt. I think that abortion after the baby is viable will be especially harmful psychologically since, by that late date, the woman will have felt movement and kicking and life.

Please don't allow the killing of these precious, viable human beings, and protect the mental health of women. Please vote "Ought NOT to Pass" on this inhumane, extreme bill.

Thank you.