

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

My name is Bruce Blakney, and I am a resident of Washburn, Maine. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I oppose LD 1619 because life is valuable. Life is too precious to throw away for any reason at any time. And when we cheapen life, society pays a high price. Every child in the womb has promise and potential and purpose. Who are we to take that away from them?

I oppose LD 1619 because it is unthinkable. It is unthinkable that we would make abortion legal right up to the time of birth and for any reason. A mother may be having a really bad day, full of fear and doubts about having their child. They don't need a way out, they need encouragement, reassurance and hope to give birth to their baby. Afterward, without exception, they are so glad they did.

I oppose LD 1619 because it is wrong. It is just plain wrong to take the life of a viable human being, a life filled with potential and promise. To take that life away for any reason, at any time is just plain wrong. I have never testified for or against any bill before today, but LD 1619 is far too important, I could not keep silent. The lives of hundreds, even thousands of babies are at stake and I do not want their blood on my hands. That is why I am testifying today.

It says in the Bible, in Deuteronomy 30:19, "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

My wife's grandmother was advised by her doctor to abort her first baby in 1942. He said both she and her baby would certainly die in childbirth. But her grandmother refused and said I will take my chances. Because she chose life, my mother-in-law was born, and to her four children, and to them ten grandchildren, and to them eighteen great-grandchildren. And just this weekend one of those great-grandchildren was honored in Lewiston as Tech Student of the Year from Caribou High School, all because Sally's grandmother chose life.

I am asking you, please choose life. Please vote ought not to pass.