

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

My name is Jeff Seaberg, and I'm a resident of Phillips. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I am pro life and I am pro choice. Nationally and locally I vote for the candidate not for the party.

I am not religious, but I do have Faith. I will not be quoting scriptures, nor will I quote philosophers. I am an independent voice.

I do not believe in abortion except in those cases of rape and that of the mothers health.

Yet being a man I do not believe I have the right to dictate a women's right to choose.

Currently the law in Maine states that an abortion is legal up to viability. There are lines within that law that will be taken out, specifically, "to preserve the life or health of the mother." Without that line in the language, the law will read, "After viability an abortion may be performed only when it is necessary in the professional judgment of a physician ..." I ask: Why? Why would we take out that line? Obviously there are rare cases when an abortion is necessary for the health of the mother, but that line is already in the law. Am I missing something? In whose interest is this proposed bill?

I have three good friends in their fifties who were adopted at birth. They never knew their biological mothers until well into their adult lives. I wonder about their very existence if the current law or proposed law were in the books at the time of their conception. Would their biological mothers have chosen to abort? Would they have made such a choice beyond viability? All of my friends had eventually reunited with their biological mothers. Although awkward, it was overall positive for all parties. I cannot imagine what those mothers felt when they gave up their babies for adoption, but I can imagine the happiness they must have felt meeting their adult children decades later. A justification that they did what they thought was best and they succeeded in bringing an incredible life into the world.

This life we are given -whether you believe in God, Buddha, or chance- is precious. It's a one hundred thousand and one shot that each of us are here today. We are the lucky ones. My adopted friends are the lucky ones. There is no reason to quote from others, I ask that; let life mature in a mothers womb, especially after viability. Leave the current law as worded. Please vote ought not to pass.