

LD 1619: An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

Oppose

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Karen Vachon. I am the Executive Director of Maine Right to Life, located in Auburn. I am a licensed health insurance agent by trade and former State Representative from Scarborough. I oppose LD 1619.

Maine doesn't need this bill. Maine existing abortion laws are among the most permissive in the country allowing for late-term abortions for non-viable babies beyond 24 weeks or pregnancy.

Late-term pregnancy terminations are traumatic, risky, brutal, and rare, and should be reserved for doctors whose expertise addresses such rare situations. The sad and tragic story of Dana Peirce and her baby, Cameron, who at 32 weeks was not viable, and was suffering from a very rare condition is a good example.

Current law did not prevent terminating her pregnancy. Rather, having a qualified and experienced doctor in Maine was most likely the reason Dana needed to seek care out of state.

As a health insurance agent, I have clients with complicated Lyme disease, rare cancers, and unique prosthetic needs. In all of these situations, the best doctors to treat their unique needs are out-of-state. For safety and best care – across the country, people seek specialists to treat rare conditions elsewhere. Dana's case is no different.

This bill goes far further than Dana's traumatic, rare, and unfortunate situation. It permits the killing of viable babies up until birth. This is

NOT an abortion. It is infanticide. This is barbaric, inhumane, and heartless. As a former lawmaker, each one of us who has the honor to serve must put our head on the pillow each night and discern: Did I do my best work for Mainers today?

Maine is the oldest state in the country with a median age of 45. We are one of four states in the country that has more deaths/year than births. And Maine aborts 5.2 babies/day. This bill is literally killing Maine's next generation. This is not Maine – the way life should be.

You all deserve a good night's sleep that you can feel good about. Please vote ought not to pass.

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