

## Testimony of Savannah Cole

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, My name is Savannah Cole, and I am a resident of Dixfield. I'm here to testify in opposition of LD 1619. When I was twenty years old, I found out I was pregnant. It always surprises me to hear of people who make it through an entire pregnancy without knowing because I knew before I ever saw that second line on the test. At twenty years old, I had an apartment and worked full-time, but I was also in school and not even remotely prepared to have a child.

Nevertheless, for me, there was no question of whether or not I would have her.

My mother-in-law felt very differently about the situation. Initially questioning my capability to care for a child, she later turned to vulgar name-calling and, ultimately, physical threats and monetary bribes to have an abortion. I remember seeing her guilt after meeting my daughter for the first time, questioning how she could have tried so hard to end that sweet, innocent life before it started. My daughter will be eight this July. She is now a proud big sister of a healthy one-month-old baby boy born at 39 weeks and two days. I stand here today, away from my one-month-old baby for the first time to encourage you to really consider why Maine needs such a radical abortion law. This bill would allow a baby that could survive outside the womb to be killed. I am here to ask you why it is not enough for someone to have 24 weeks to decide to have an abortion. Please vote ought not to pass. Thank you.

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~~(Please vote ought not to pass. Thank you.)~~

*death* → I am thankful my parents didn't decide I was unworthy of life when they found out I ~~wasn't a left foot~~. *just as it began* I hope none of your children realize how little value you are placing on their lives. *After 5 years + one miscarriage*