

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Kirstin Smith, and I am a resident of Dixfield. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Like most people, I wear many hats and fall into countless roles. In every single role I fill, and with every fiber of my being, I still believe that abortion at ANY time, for ANY reason is too extreme for Maine.

As a Labor and Delivery nurse, I attended countless deliveries. Male, female, term, pre-term, living and crying, and babies born sleeping. I have supported, and comforted, and held women in my arms as they rejoiced in the arrival of their baby or mourned the loss of a life that was just beginning. The DNA of a baby is distinct and constant from the moment of conception to birth, to school, to marriage, to the nursing home, to death. We are all humans, at each one of these milestones, and we all have the right to live.

As a pediatric nurse, I cared for children of all ages. Most appeared to be loved and cared for. Unfortunately, some did not. And as my heart breaks for those children, I would never dream of advocating for their death or permitting them to feel that it would be better if they had never been born. Suffering is a part of this world. It's all around us, although at varying degrees. We cannot predict how people will react to suffering. Eventually these children will be grown and on their own, able to choose how they will act moving forward. They deserve the chance to be better than what they were given.

As a mother, I love my children deeply. If I was at the park, and my child was poked by a used needle, and therefore contracted HIV – I would be devastated. An incurable disease would eventually wreak havoc on my child's body. Does that give me the right to kill them? I submit to you, that the only difference between an unfortunate diagnosis in the womb and this situation is the stage of life that the children are in. What if they were in a terrible accident and became disfigured? Would their life matter any less?

As a friend, I want those around me to be kept safe. This bill would remove any repercussions for people performing abortions – even if the woman is also harmed during the procedure. This doesn't sound like "safe, legal, and rare" to me. The cost of living is rising all the time. If any untrained person is allowed to perform these acts, what makes us think that women wouldn't look for the cheapest option?

This bill does not protect women, it merely opens the door to a different form of suffering.

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Kirstin Smith, and I am a resident of Dixfield. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Like most people, I wear many hats and fall into countless roles. In every single role I fill, and with every fiber of my being, I still believe that abortion at ANY time, for ANY reason is too extreme for Maine.

As a Labor and Delivery nurse, I attended countless deliveries. ^{of living} ~~Male, female, term, pre-term, living and crying,~~ and babies born sleeping. I have ~~supported, and comforted, and~~ held women in my arms as they rejoiced in the arrival ^{babies} of their baby or mourned the loss of a life that was just beginning. The DNA of ^{each} a baby is distinct and constant from the moment of conception to birth, to school, to marriage, to the nursing home, to death. We are all humans, at each one of these milestones, and we all have the right to live.

As a pediatric nurse, I cared for children of all ages. Most appeared to be loved and cared for. Unfortunately, some did not. And as my heart breaks for those children, I would never dream of advocating for their death or permitting them to feel that it would be better if they had never been born. Suffering is a part of this world. It's all around us, although at varying degrees. We cannot predict how people will react to suffering. Eventually these children will be grown and on their own, able to choose how they will act moving forward. They deserve the chance to be better than what they were given.

As a mother, I love my children deeply. ^{What if} ~~It was at the park,~~ and my child was poked by a used needle, and therefore contracted HIV. ^{This} ~~I would be devastated.~~ An incurable disease would eventually ^{kill} ~~wreak havoc~~ on my child ^{that litter our public areas} ~~child's body~~. Does that give me the right to kill them? I submit to you, that the only difference between an unfortunate diagnosis in the womb and this situation is the stage of life that the children are in. What if they were in a terrible accident and became disfigured? Would their life matter any less? ^{because they didn't of looks?}

As a friend, I want those around me to be kept safe. ~~This bill would remove any repercussions for people performing abortions - even if the woman is also harmed during the procedure.~~ This doesn't sound like "safe, legal, and rare" to me. ~~The cost of living is rising all the time.~~ If any untrained person is allowed to perform these acts, what makes us think that women wouldn't look for the cheapest option? ~~only~~ ^{or not} ~~medical professional~~

This bill does not protect women, it merely opens the door to a different form of suffering.

Vote ought not to pass on these 3 bills.