

## Testimony Before the Standing Joint Committee on Judiciary

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

My name is Ken Libby. I live in Lewiston and am here to testify in opposition to LD1619, An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws.

Nearly five years ago one of my daughters-in-law lost her baby at 22 weeks of gestation as a result of medical complications in the pregnancy. As one of the grandparents I got to hold and say "goodbye" to little Jeremiah. Jeremiah had clearly been well on his way as a very little human being and not an inconvenient blob of protoplasm. While doing so generated a danger to my daughter-in-law, great effort was expended to save Jeremiah. Losing him was a long time wound for both parents.

The middle son of my wife and me was an 'inconvenient and unexpected development. He complicated things by being born eight weeks prematurely. I can guarantee you that he was a small, functioning, feeling and responsive person from birth. He now has a great wife and four children of his own.

I cannot conceive of the termination of any such late term babies, such as I have held, as anything but murderously heinous. In Maine there are already legal measures in place to govern and assist in making those rare and very difficult decisions where mother/baby survivals are at issue.

Further, my oldest child began as a result of my young and irresponsible action. That 'inconvenient and unwanted' bit of protoplasm was carried full term, adopted and she has come into my later life as a wonderful, loving and honorable daughter, wife, mother and grandmother. What a loss had she been "terminated".

Jen and my nephew Dan knowingly carried full term and for several years have loved and raised a Downs Syndrome child named Ben. They knew and embraced the challenges. Neither they nor Ben's three 'normal' siblings regret the decision.

In today's society, with all the help and support available, there are much better solutions to such difficult situations than killing little people.

Such a drastic bill in place would cause me and many other voters to make a candidate's stand on pro-life issues the prime litmus test for voting decisions.

Along with a majority of Maine voters, I oppose LD1619 and any other such drastic full and late term abortion enabling laws.

Please also do so. Thank you