

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

My name is Gordon Burnham. I am a resident of Oakland, Maine and am here to testify in opposition to LD1619.

Our state has been surviving quite well with the abortion rulings in effect before this bill. So well, in fact, that our Governor, the Honorable Janet Mills, in her campaign for her second term acknowledged there was no need to expand abortion rights.

At this time, abortions are permitted up to the gestational time of viability which is considered to be 22-23 weeks. They are also only legally allowed to be performed by a licensed health care professional.

LD1619 would allow the life of a viable child to be taken from it until the time of birth and as worded could take place in the birth canal itself. It also removes any penalty for the taking of this life. This is barbaric. Once the penalty is removed, what will impede any individual from performing this sanctified, for lack of a better term, murder.

I served in the military 28 ½ years of my life to ensure that people in this country and especially this state would enjoy their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness which the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence states are unalienable. Although not legally binding, the Declaration states the principles on which our government, and our identity as Americans, are based.

In Maine, we cannot freely distribute disposable grocery bags. Are we going to freely dispose of life?

This bill is extreme and out of character with the image many would prefer Maine to put forth.

Thank you for your time and attention and I urge you to vote **Ought Not to Pass.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Burnham, Oakland, Maine