

May 1, 2023

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1619

An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

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

My name is Nathan Gould, I am from Winterport, and I am here to give testimony in opposition to LD 1619, "An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws."

Today I am sure you have heard or will hear how few—around less than a third—of citizens support late-term abortion, and you will be presented with the accounts of individuals whose births were complicated with grim diagnoses yet survived and experienced life. I believe not only are there individual consequences to this bill—the right to life of the preborn baby being abrogated—but there are also consequences to our society and culture.

I recognize that although I cling to the Name of Jesus Christ as the only Name under heaven by which we must be saved, not all of my fellow citizens do. Undoubtedly there are those who differ with my faith, even within the sound of my voice. The government has no authority to establish or prohibit the free exercise of religion per both our Nation's Constitution and that of the State of Maine, nor should it have such power. The Founders of our Country and State rightly placed these protections. Nevertheless, the Founders also recognized our rights must come from Someone higher than ourselves: He Whom the Preamble of the Maine State Constitution refers to as the "Sovereign Ruler of the Universe."

Our unalienable rights are protected if we uphold that they are “endowed by our Creator,” yet a concerning trend has developed in which our rights are increasingly dictated to us by government. If our rights are granted by mere men, they can be taken by mere men. Thus it is disturbing to me that we would consider terminating the life of our most voiceless citizens—the preborn—continuing a prejudice against a demographic that cannot defend themselves: future generations. The power over a person’s right to life belongs neither in your hands, distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, nor mine. If we cannot protect the right to life of our most vulnerable, how can we hope to defend the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for anyone else?

It brings open shame to me and to all of us that things have gone this far, far from “clumps of cells.” That we are discussing the terminating of babies up to birth, with no limits based on viability, is a symptom of how far off course our society has gone. Though some may intend to help those in extreme and tragic cases with this legislation, it is a poor solution if it puts any baby at risk just because they are deemed an inconvenience. I firmly hold to the truth that all lives are valuable, created in God’s image.

I humbly and earnestly ask that you, members of the Committee, correct our course. I ask the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Nathan C Gould

Winterport