

May 1, 2023

Senator Carney and Representative Mooran, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Alice Merritt, and I am a resident of Porter. I am here to testify in opposition to LD1619.

As a woman who has lived forty-nine years with the mental anguish of having had an abortion of an embryo of six weeks' gestation, I find the concept of LD1619 to be abhorrent. This bill would allow a baby that could actually survive outside the womb to be killed. I cannot even begin to imagine the long-term psychological scarring this would impart to those women who might take part in this offering.

I sincerely believe in live and let live, but if this bill passes, Maine will possess one of the most extreme abortion laws in the entire country.

As a Registered Nurse of more than twenty-two years, I am painfully aware of the lack of availability of mental health services within the state of Maine. As a survivor of guilt and shame, I know the addictions I have lived with and faced as I attempted to drown my sorrow for the prior actions of having taken the life force of my own child to be. As a taxpayer of Maine for the past forty-five years, I resent the undue burden this will bring against our great state. As medical necessity is already covered by the current law within our state, I implore this judiciary panel to vote down this bill labeled LD1619.