

May 1, 2023

Madam Chair, Mister Chair and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for holding these hearings and allowing all who are concerned about this very weighty matter to have an opportunity to weigh in on the subject, and in particular LD 1619.

My name is Rebecca Pringle-Gleske, I'm from Berwick, Maine.

For starters - shame on Governor Mills for introducing this legislation. This is a very divisive move on your part. It betrays the trust that many of the people who voted for you her put in you when you indicated that you would not change Maine's abortion law. It was wrong of you to pull us into this divisive mess.

Maine's current abortion law allows for abortion up to viability (24 weeks) and later if the health of the mother is endangered. This strikes a balance between prolife and prochoice citizens. Actually, it's on the more extreme side of what most of the rest of the world allows. 37 of the World's about 195 countries ban abortion. Most of the rest allow for it up to about 12 weeks, the first trimester. A hand full of countries allow for abortion up to viability, 22-24 weeks. Only 6 countries allow abortion 'til birth.

We all know THAT what's growing inside a pregnant woman is a human being. In Maine, we have said it's ok to kill it; abort its growth, so long as it could not survive on its own. However, LD 1619 goes beyond killing somethings that can't survive on its own. We are now proposing to kill a live person who can survive once separated from its mother. There's no doubt this is murder. And a brutal horrific murder at that. NO, we didn't sign up for this.

We say, "My body, my choice", but after viability there are 2 distinct people.
If the little tyke could speak for itself, it would it say, "My body, my choice To Live!"
Shame on you Janet Mills.

Our son's wife became pregnant. Around 4 ½ months she started talking about aborting the baby. She almost did it at 7 months. I flew to Florida and brought them back here where we could support them. She went through many bouts of "I love this baby", followed by "I want this out of me now!". She went to the ER at least once a week to be seen for some exotic ailment she had read about. The medical team decided that for the mother's health they would deliver the baby 3 weeks early. I got the privilege of cutting her umbilical cord. She was an absolutely beautiful baby girl. Perfect in every way – just over 6 pounds. She is now almost 4 years old, and a marvel of chatty excitement and intelligence. I can't imagine our son's life without her.

I get ill thinking of how close that beautiful child came to being killed just before she came into this world. The horrible painful way she would have died – either by being chemically burnt to death, or by being cut up and sucked out. The horrific pain - makes me want to puke. This is wrong. This proposed bill is wrong. Trust your gut. Stop this madness right here. Thank you.

From the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.–

Abortion is not a right. But Life IS a right. Abortion after viability is definitely taking a Life. In our gut, we know it is wrong. Most of the world knows it's wrong. Little children know it's wrong. It was wrong of Governor Janet Mills to propose this divisive bill. Please stop it here.