

My name is Tabatha Littlefield and I live in Unity, Maine. My husband and I have five children. Our first child was born 6 weeks premature, but completely healthy and vibrant. We went home the next day. He is now a happy and successful adult. I know from my own experiences with pregnancy that an infant in the womb, while dependant on his mother, is an individual human being, a separate life. He or she has a unique personality and from the moment I can feel that baby moving inside of me, I can sense their emotions and responses to what is going on around me. Babies in the womb respond to their father's voice and the voices of others who live with them. They respond negatively and move quickly away from the device that takes an ultrasound. I think they experience some level of pain from an ultrasound, which is why they move away fast. When I was 20 weeks pregnant with my 5th child, we attended a symphony orchestra production of Walt Disney classics. When the music played, she *DANCED* inside me with so much enthusiasm that it was visible from the outside!

What bothers me the most about this bill is adoption. My sister has type 1 diabetes. She and her husband were blessed to have two children of their own, but her body could not have any more. Yet their hearts longed for another baby! They chose to adopt. They were ready and willing to accept and love any baby, no matter what health issues or special needs that baby might come with. Although the process was costly, they were prepared to find a way to make it work. They waited in line for years to get their baby. There are loving parents *WAITING and LONGING* for a baby to hold. Women have options other than abortion if they are unable or unwilling to keep a baby. My sister and her husband did finally get to adopt a baby boy. What a blessing and answer to prayer that boy is! How horrible to think he may have been aborted had it been more convenient for his biological mother.

Please don't pass LD1619. Every baby is a gift from God, precious, and unique. These children have the same "right to life" that we are all endowed with by our Creator, according to our Declaration of Independence.

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