

Testimony in opposition to LD1619 5-1-23

Good afternoon honorable Senator Carney, Representative Moonan and distinguished members of the judiciary committee. My name is Heather Sprague and I'm a native Mainer from Cushing. I'm here today in opposition to LD1619 an act to improve Maines reproductive privacy laws. As a woman who has experienced a potentially unwanted teen pregnancy I know first hand what it's like to be faced with having to give up my future, my teen years and my freedom to care for another life when I could barely take care of my own. I realized that I was not responsible with my body, I didn't take birth control or use protection, that I could not blame someone else, an innocent baby, my own flesh and blood for my own bad decisions. I knew I couldn't kill my son for any reason but especially for something that I did. My conscience wouldn't let me and I couldn't have lived with myself if I did, it would have ruined me.

But this isn't about me, it's about legislation that would allow for full term babies to be terminated for any reason that can be thought up, not just if the mothers life is in danger. What if a doctor refuses to perform a late term abortion does that allow for the woman to shop around for one that will? What happens to the mother, who provides counseling to them after going through something so traumatic? As women we have known or have close friends who have had abortions. We have been there to help comfort them after what might have been the most devastating event in their lives. A friend is all they have after an abortion and many will have to live with the everlasting effects of that trauma.

We can only imagine what these women will be dealing with after terminating an actual baby that can live on its own. I can tell you that most who support this bill have never had an abortion or seen what can happen to a woman after she's had one. If they knew they wouldn't be so excited to support it. I would ask the committee to focus on legislation that seeks to treat humanity with respect and dignity, that would teach the young people the value of life so they protect it and aren't going to just throw it away because they were irresponsible with it at their convenience or a doctor's approval. This totally disregards the value of life and lacks respect, morals and dignity. I plead with this committee to realize how devastating a vote to pass would be mentally and physically on the people of Maine. I respectfully ask that you ought not pass LD 1619.

Thank you for your time.

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