

PERSONAL TESTIMONY LD1619

Good day. Thank you for the opportunity for me to bring my testimony to you today. I appreciate your time, energy, and devotion to all that you do for our state and our country.

Today is a tough day. There will be citizens providing testimony for, against, and indifferent towards the subject matter content of abortion. I am here to provide testimony AGAINST the passage of LD1619.

I realize this bill was presented in a most shocking and extreme way, perhaps in order to force and create dialogue to speak about the abortion issue.

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There are many valid debate points on both sides of this very important issue and ultimate decision today, but due to the understandable timing constraints I will touch on a short list of points.

I spent twenty years in the military fighting for others' freedoms and, not trying to appear melodramatic, signed and took an oath willing to die for this country and its people because I love this country so very much. I was willing to fight for myself and others' to have the privilege and chance to pursue freedoms and LIFE for those too weak to fight for themselves here in America and around the world on their home soil. Today I fight for what is a valuable life within the womb as those who would be future American citizens. So now, apparently, I am fighting for those precious to America who cannot voice for themselves from within the womb.

The truth about late-term abortions in the United States is abortions are very rare. According to Pew Research Center, a study was conducted that contains a plethora of statistical data including quantitative figures and facts. "In the District of Columbia, New York City, and the 46 states that provided abortion and residency

information to the CDC, 9.7% of all abortions were performed on women whose state of residence was known to be different than the state when the abortion occurred - virtually the same percentage as in 2019 (9.3%). ([PewResearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/)). "In the 46 states that reported data to the CDC in 2020, the majority of women who had abortions (57%) were in their 20's, while about three-in-ten (31%) were in their 30's. Teens ages 13 to 19 accounted for 8% of those who had abortions, while women in their 40's accounted for 4%." ([PewResearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/)). Perhaps the most glaring statistical data from the Pew Center Research stated, "The vast majority of abortions occur during the first trimester of a pregnancy. In 2020, 93% of abortions occurred during the first trimester - that is, at or before 13 weeks of gestation...an additional 6% occurred between 14 and 20 weeks of pregnancy, and 1% were performed at 21 weeks or more of gestation". ([PewResearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/)). JUST 1% ACROSS ALMOST THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES AFTER 21 WEEKS ([PewResearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/)). This 1% does NOT speak for the majority of cases per the research and data nor does it speak for the overwhelming majority of Americans who have undergone abortions procedures. Additionally, "these CDC figures include data from 40 states and New York City (but not the rest of New York). About 2% of all abortions in the U.S. involve some type of complication for the woman, according to an article in Statpearls, an online health care resource. The article says that 'most complications are considered MINOR such as pain, bleeding, infection, and post-anesthesia complication". ([PewResearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/)). in 2018, according to the Charlotte Lozier Institute at lozierinstitute.org a study demonstrating Gestational Age, late term abortions reported across the United States showed the state of Maine's number at ZERO, no late-term abortions. (<https://lozierinstitute.org/late-term-abortion-stats/>). Summation: Just 1-2% of ALL ABORTIONS across the United States are late-term abortions. Even though abortion is a highly contested subject matter, the truth is all the noise and hell-raised does not negate data, of which I am confident there is much more out there to substantiate my position, that claim late-term abortions are, indeed, rare across the entire United States.

The first thing that came to my mind when I learned of this bill being presented was concern of the unborn, obviously. In my opinion, it is murder. In my opinion, there are many people who use abortion as a birth-control method. Time and again they

murder an unborn child for the sake of birth control. At

<https://www.physiciansforlife.org/women-using-abortion-as-birth-control-59-already-had-one-child-33-had-two-kids/> , the opening paragraph states, "Despite Americans' opposition to the idea, some women have admitted to using abortion as a method of birth control. The article goes on to substantiate it's assertion by mentioning a new report by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute. This is quantitative and qualitative data and content collected from pro-abortion facilities.

A child who exists within the womb with feeling and awareness as open heart surgery. At the source, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/patient-stories/534-surgery-on-the-baby-in-womb-removes-life-threatening-tumor-on-heart>, Sam Drinnon first met her unborn son, Rylan, about 10 weeks before she gave birth. Deeply anesthetized, Sam underwent a fetal interventional surgery at Cleveland Clinic on May 7, 2021, during which Ryan's arms and shoulders were gently lifted out of her uterus while his head remained inside...enabling (doctors) to gain access to the chest of the 26-week-old fetus...to (perform) a life-saving procedure by removing the tumor growing on his heart". Look at the headline and consider the doctors' surgical team, performing LIFE THREATENING surgery on this baby, this human being. LIFE. The baby IS LIFE, a living person.

Almost 23 years ago, an image of a 21 week-old fetus diagnosed with spina bifida and having innovative, prenatal corrective surgery circulated the world showing the fetus' small hand and fingers reached out from the womb and grasped hold of the doctor's finger. The entire story to include the medical miracle and clearly demonstrating LIFE of awareness and comprehension, even subconsciously, is found within several resources, but a brief synopsis is located at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hand_of_Hope including a picture of the moment. Ryan is now a healthy individual living his life. LIFE.

To allow passage of this bill will endanger women who will have the ability to have an abortion outside of medical supervision by certified doctors and medical personnel which, to me, brings back memories of hanger abortions in backstreet alley passageways and other unhealthy, unsupervised competent medical personnel in case something goes wrong with mother and child.

Without going into extreme detail and further debate here, the thought crossed my mind that we are on the verge, the cusp of deciding who is more important, a potential American future citizen or those who come across the border illegally. Are you willing to let illegals cross the border and immediately receive more rights than an

unborn AMERICAN CITIZEN just waiting for it's opportunity to be born? Seem illogical to me and it could give the perception and appearance to many, many others here in the State of Maine as well as the other 49 states that legislators and The People give precedence to illegal foreigners over our very own future citizen American babies who are decided to be expendable and non-existent should you pass this bill. It's murder. Choose LIFE, please.

This is not a political party question or dilemma; it is a HUMAN BEING and MORAL question and dilemma. It is arguable that America's morals have been on an increasingly steady decline over the years. Please do not make the mistake of compounding the issue and feeding the senselessness of a lost moral compass for the 1-2% who desire late term abortions or the rest of the pro-abortion supporters whose abortion reasoning does not fall under acknowledged situations such as rape, incest, etc., to have an abortion procedure performed. Please do not expand the parameters of individuals getting abortions by opening up a wider, longer time frame for them to seek dangerous abortions.

The origins of the case presented in support of this bill are suspicious to me. I realize HIPPA and Pii are involved so details may be limited. Yet, was the decision for a person to travel outside of the State of Maine for her abortion due to personal choice to travel under the guise of "no doctor would perform the abortion in Maine" because of a political agenda or because most doctors know and understand late-term abortions might be high-risk as well as rare and they were unwilling to perform the procedure anyway? Just 1% to 2% across the entire United States for late-term abortions. LIFE; please choose LIFE.

Please do NOT pass and approve LD1619.

Lastly, the sensational question that can be posed and thoroughly pondered; "What if your mother had aborted you"?

Thank you for allowing me to speak and have a voice today.

God bless you all with insightful, dutiful wisdom and action while determining this poor, devastating, and tragic bill's proposal.

Semper Fidelis,

Jon Barkley

What if your mother had aborted you?

15

01May2023

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→ Senator, Representative, & esteemed Committee Member

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data and comments from: Cleveland Clinic, CDC, PEW Research Center, Navier Institute, Physicians For Life, Wikipedia, I AM PRO LIFE ORG

P. 2 and 2
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46
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As of 2023
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RYAN 26
Now

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