

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Amy Pray Smith and I am a resident of Durham. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

LD 1619 is too extreme for Maine since it would allow abortions up to birth for any reason, including aborting babies with disabilities. As a mother of five adopted children with disabilities ranging from cerebral palsy to limb difference, I do not support this bill which sets us back decades as far as respecting the lives of people with disabilities. One reason late term abortions are performed is because of fetal anomalies detected in the last trimester. Aborting a viable baby because they have a disability is saying they are less valuable and don't deserve to live. It's a form of eugenics. You can ask any of my children if they think they would have been better off being aborted. I can assure you; they would all say they are happy to be alive. They have fulfilling lives and make valuable contributions to our community.

Three of my children were adopted from China, where abortion is available on demand up until birth, and where people with disabilities suffer from many forms of discrimination. Almost all European countries limit abortions in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters and LD 1619 would put us on par with countries like China and North Korea. Is that what we want the beautiful state of Maine to be known for?

I urge you to vote against this extreme abortion bill and show that you value the lives of people with disabilities.