

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

My name is Aaron Smith and I am a resident of Durham and the father of five children. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Janet Mills has used the story of the Peirce family in Yarmouth and the suffering of their unborn baby from a rare form of skeletal dysplasia as a main reason why abortions should be made legal up to birth in Maine. This is rather ironic, arguing that the unborn baby needs to be put out of its suffering because of fetal pain from broken bones when no such consideration is given to fetal pain felt by babies during a 2nd or 3rd trimester abortion.

Dilation and Extraction (also known as a D and E) is a common abortion procedure for abortions done later in pregnancy. This involves extracting the baby in pieces from the uterus. The baby is literally ripped apart by metal forceps with no anesthesia given to it. It's become apparent that fetal pain is something we need to consider in 2nd and 3rd trimester abortions and if we care about the pain a fetus feels, shouldn't we protect it from abortion procedures that would cause terrible pain? Doctors who provide fetal surgery are now recommending that the fetus receive anesthesia because it leads to less fetal distress and better outcomes. There should be more compassionate options than abortions for unborn babies who suffer from painful fatal conditions like the Peirce family's baby. If we care about fetal pain and suffering, we need to care about it for all unborn babies who can feel pain, not just the one being used by the governor to argue for expanding abortions in Maine.