

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary: My name is Michael Russin, I am a resident of Windham Maine, and I'm here to testify against LB1619

What separates us as humans from the birds of the air and the beasts of the field? What has allowed for the innovation of technology, the modernization and improvement of our living conditions and the advancement of human civilization across the globe?

We have, as a race, collectively come together to create a society in which cooperation is necessary and expected and utilized as a tool through which we improve not only our own lives, but the lives of those around us.

In this highly civilized and comparatively ordered society, a very basic right is inherent- the right to LIFE. The ability to go to school, start a family, and go to work without the fear of violence and death is undoubtedly the hallmark of a civilized society. As we all know, Maine has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.

I cannot come up to one of you and murder you because I think that your life is inconveniencing mine or because I want something that you have. Again- this is indeed a civilized society.

So let me ask you, if we allow for the murder of our most vulnerable citizens in their most vulnerable state- IN THE WOMB- can we continue to call ourselves a civilized society? Can we continue to take pride in our extremely low crime rate? The answer to that question is a resounding NO. Not if the most vulnerable are at risk at the hands of their mothers and medical professionals- those SWORN to protect them.

If we legally support the murder of FULL TERM babies, I no longer see the merits of outlawing any other type of murder. Why don't we lift the bans on first degree, second degree murder, manslaughter, and all other related charges? That would be absolutely ludicrous, right?

We have heard many arguments today, but there is no distinction. In fact I and many others agree that the murder of a human life, an image bearer of God at its infant stages is perhaps the most vile of all crimes.

You may not hear the love in my tone, and I do not mean this with malice- but please understand that this comes from a place of love. I see you for what you are, just like I see these babies for what they are- image bearers of the true living God. I say this because I care for you.

Whether you choose to believe or not, God is the final judge, jury and executioner. To fall into the hands of the living God is a terrifying thing. You as leaders have been put into your positions by God and we are told that, as leaders, we will be held to a higher standard. I cannot even begin to wrap my head around the terrible judgement that would come upon you in the next life should you choose to use your power to legalize and endorse infanticide, because that is what this bill would legalize. Infanticide. The murder of babies.

The 14th amendment of the Constitution of the United States which you swore before God to uphold and protect says "nor shall any states deprive any person of LIFE liberty or property without due process of law." Let me ask you, where is the due process for these children?

I will pray, for your sake, but especially for the sakes of these children that you vote correctly and destroy LB1619.

Please vote ought not to pass