

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonan and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Deborah Milite and I live in Freeport. I am testifying today in opposition of LD 1619, An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws.

Bath, Maine, 1919. Doris, 18, unmarried, motherless at 15, living in West Bath with sister's family, employed at Texas Steamship Company, amidst a relationship with a co-worker, becomes pregnant.

Maine law allows unrestricted abortion until 24 weeks, and after if necessary for the mother's health. Now, Governor Mills seeks to change current law to unrestricted abortion through birth, with the mother's rights the sole determinant of her baby's life.

I oppose expanding Maine abortion law through birth. A fetus is dependent upon, BUT is a genetically distinguished and separate being from, its mother, developing to become viable. When does abortion become infanticide? The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, 1973, shows "infant" as deriving from the Latin, "*in fari*," "unable to speak." Who is charged with protecting the "unable to speak"? The State has a charge in this. What does it say about Mainers that expanding abortion through birth would align us with North Korea, China, Vietnam? Is this really what our citizens demand? I think not.

Doris, pregnant in 1919, married her co-worker, my grandfather, and gave birth in 1920 to my uncle, then my dad, who engendered me 32 years later. I am grateful to my grandparents for choosing life, a precious gift. I urge the Committee to oppose this unnecessary, drastic bill, and vote, "ought not to pass." Thank you.