

Testimony on LD 1619

Monday, May 1, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lisa Siciliano and I live in Westbrook. I'm also a pastor of the Portland House of Prayer Church in Portland.

I'm here today to ask you to oppose LD 1619

Personally, I've been blessed to have three healthy children, the youngest of which graduates from high school this year. But I also conceived another baby that did not live. I carried him for 19 weeks, and 2 days. When I delivered him 21 years ago this week, he was perfect in every way. His fingers, toes, arms, and legs were all perfect. We could even see he already looked like his big brother. We named him Joseph. Often when abortion is considered, the baby, is considered to be just tissue that needs to be removed from a woman. However, when I delivered my son at 19 weeks, and 2 days, he was a perfect little boy, he just came too early.

Also, often when abortion is considered, we hear it was an unwanted pregnancy. Yes, we know pregnancy does not always happen at a convenient time, but the child being carried in that mother's womb is very wanted by someone who may not be able to have children as they planned. This was the case for my brother and sister-in-law. They had been married about 15 years when they still had not been able to conceive. They decided to become foster parents in Maine and see if that could be a way for them to have a family. Shortly after they became foster parents, they received a call about a 15-year-old girl who had just delivered a baby. She and her family were not able to care for her. My brother and sister-in-law picked the little girl up from the hospital when she was just 2 days old. Instead of an abortion, this young mother chose to carry her daughter to term and put her up for adoption. Today my niece Gabrielle is a beautiful 16-year-old junior in high school, who loves every animal she's ever met.

The following year my brother and sister-in-law received another call. A young mother was struggling with substance abuse and could no longer care for her two-month-old daughter. Despite all the obstacles this young woman faced, she chose to give her daughter life instead of aborting her. Today, my niece Mia is a beautiful 15-year-old sophomore in high school who is becoming a beautiful artist.

At every family holiday, birthday, and fun time together I'm so grateful the mothers of my two nieces chose LIFE instead of abortion.

Abortion at ANY time, for ANY reason is far too extreme.

This bill would allow a baby that could survive outside the womb to be killed.

I ask you today to oppose LD 1619. Thank you!