

**Statement by
Debra Wadleigh
To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Regarding**

**LD 1619 An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy
Laws**

May 1, 2023

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present before you. I am Debra Wadleigh, taxpayer and citizen of Belgrade, Maine.

I am opposed to LD 1619. This bill would give Maine one of the most extreme abortion laws in the entire country by allowing a baby that could survive outside the womb to be killed. That ending a living, breathing baby's life for any reason is not ok. This is too extreme for Maine.

I am the mother of an adult child who has special needs. I did not know at his birth and it would have made no difference to me, but I shudder to think that I would even have had the choice or that I may have been urged to end his life if anyone had known. He has ADHD, Tourette Syndrome, and is hearing impaired. In spite of the many challenges he has faced, he has grown up to be a wonderful son, lives independently in his own home, with a good job and a full life. We cannot know what the future for a baby is if we never give them a chance.

What are we teaching are children about the "value of life" if this bill makes it legal to kill fully developed babies that are capable of surviving outside the womb?

Governor Mills promised she would not expand abortion law in Maine during her campaign but she has broken her promise. How can she be trusted after lying by promoting something as extreme as this bill?

We need to hold Governor Mills accountable for her promises and send a message to our children that life does have value. I urge every member of this Judiciary Committee to vote "ought not to pass" on L.D. 1619.