Statement by Cynthia Johnson To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary Regarding

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

LD 776, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the Right to Bodily Autonomy, and

LD 1343, An Act to Protect the Reproductive Freedom of Maine People by Preempting the Field of Abortion Regulation.

May 1, 2023

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Cynthia Johnson of Belgrade, Maine.

I am opposed to all three bills before you today but will speak to LD 1619.

My mother was very ill when she was carrying me! The doctor wanted to abort me! We lived in a duplex house and the lady (a Catholic) that lived on the other side of us was standing by mom's bedside and said, "You will not abort this child." The doctor informed my dad that we both would die if he did not abort me! If by any chance we lived, I would be very ill and I was, until penicillin.

My mom lived to be 54 and see several of her grandchildren! I am now an 88-year-old and a very healthy lady! God has blessed me to be married 68 years and we have three children who have given us nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren! My parents gave me Helen as a middle name, which was our neighbor's name! We called her aunt Helen as a tribute to her stand against abortion! God has been so good! To Him I give all the glory.

Please vote "no" on L.D. 1619 and also L.D. 776 and L.D. 1343. Thank you!