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## **Against LD 1619**

### **An Act To Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws**

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Darcy Good and I am a resident of Winslow. I oppose LD 1619. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.

When we have the view that our fellow humans are disposable, we are not evolving, we're devolving. Abortion has always been and will always be a Pandora's Box. Every time we raise the limits, we lower the bar. For 50 years we've had limits on abortion, and now we want to lower the bar some more. I shudder to think about the consequences.

Kermit Gosnell performed thousands of abortions, including illegal late-term abortions for 30 years while our government institutions looked the other way. The abortion laws set the bar low, and Gosnell violated many laws without repercussions.

If people truly understood the process of abortion, it is possible they would change their beliefs about abortion and especially late-term abortion. The jurors in the Gosnell trial listened to doctors who explained all aspects of the abortion process. They also saw photographs of the aborted babies. Sarah Glinski and Joe Carroll, two of the jurors, told ABC News that seeing the photographs of the babies was a turning point for them. "It was disturbing because the babies were so big", they said.

By the end of the Gosnell trial, prosecutors, several journalists, and even Gosnell's own lawyer experienced changes of heart and mind. Not all of them ended up in the pro-life camp, but almost everyone emerged from the Gosnell trial more skeptical about abortion than when they started. This change was probably because for the first time they heard about the reality of abortion from experts under oath. The witnesses may have been lobbyists or pundits or ideologues or all three, but they were not allowed to be such in court. They had to tell the truth, and they had to tell it in detail.

How does this story apply to LD 1619? As the people in the courtroom of the Gosnell trial found out: abortion is a gruesome act, especially late-term. There is so much more to this story, and I fear if the bill becomes law the Gosnell atrocities will happen again but will be much worse.

And last but not least, my sister had an abortion when she was a teenager. She is 68 and has suffered life-long guilt over her abortion. Whether you know it or not, you come in contact with people everyday who have been negatively affected by abortion.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge this committee to vote ought not to pass on L.D. 1619.

Source: Gosnell: The Untold Story of America's Most Prolific Serial Killer , by Ann McElhinney and Phelim McAleer