

LD 1619 TESTIMONY

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Ann Varney and I am a resident of Turner. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

In 1975, I became an unwed mother. I was 22 years old, when my daughter was born. I found motherhood to be the biggest challenge I had ever had. I didn't have family support and I worked full time. She turned out to be the biggest blessing that I had ever received. I can't lie, it was at times, frustrating and stressful. On the other hand, she filled me with a love that I had never experienced. I wasn't a perfect mom, but she became an amazing young woman. She received a Doctorate from the University of Stirling in Scotland and went to work for the University of Oxford. She was co-founder and Program Director of one of the most popular special needs day camps, called Farm Ability, in Wytham, England. The day camp taught life and farm skills to the attendees, who helped plant and weed gardens, feed animals, gather chicken eggs, and sell them at a farmers' market. She was an expert in chickens and was writing a book that was going to be published in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan. Without Corri, there may not have been a Farm Ability. She died of cancer in 2014, but I had the good fortune to have her as my daughter and best friend for almost 38 yrs.