

Senators, Representatives, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Diana Gallant of the town of Washington.

Today I am here to testify in respect to LD 1619. I implore each of you to deeply reflect on this pivotal issue and vote "Ought NOT to Pass."

I speak from my experience as a mother, parent, woman, human, and especially as an elder of 60+ years. There is no substitute for life experience from which yields wisdom. Wisdom is earned from making mistakes, observing, and reflecting upon the impact of our actions.

This is a time to lead with wisdom and compassion. Intentionally choosing to terminate a life is an act of disrespect, desperation, and destruction for both the baby and the woman whose life is also diminished as a human being. This is not life-affirming behavior.

I think many people would agree that we are at a critical tipping point, which I would describe as a ~~crossroad~~^{crossroad} of consciousness. We must remember that life is a gift and of all of us, babies ~~are~~^{are} closest to God. Ignoring our moral duty to protect them is not an option if we are to remain human and humane.

As a leader, Maine has an unprecedented opportunity to lead the country by standing up for life! Thank you.