

Senators, Representatives, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Deborah Gallant and I reside in Belfast.

I am here to testify with respect to LD 1619 and urge you to deeply consider the morality and alarming graveness of such a reality and ask you to vote "Ought NOT to Pass".

Certainly, most women possess the innate knowledge and ability to make the righteous choice regarding the precious miracle of burgeoning life in their hands.

And if not, should abortion truly be considered a form of birth control simply because pregnancy is not convenient? That said, I fully comprehend the exception of traumatic experiences involving rape, incest, and the like.

I do not speak to any of this lightly. I express these thoughts because of my own lived experiences. At two different ages and stages of my life, 28 and more recently at age 46, I was pregnant, (married and not married respectively). Simply put, while facing seemingly insurmountable emotions, challenges, hardships and initial lack of support and resources, I chose life, despite the timing, 'inconvenience' and the massive unknown.

As it turned out, in both cases I raised my children as a working single parent. I'm STILL parenting in real-time, as my youngest daughter is 16 years old and I am now 62. The details regarding the involvement of my childrens' fathers are irrelevant as I make a point. My main point is that I took moral responsibility for my actions. And surely the option of adoption could have been the other choice, but not for me.

Reflecting on the past 35 years of sobering reality, maturation, responsibility and doing the right thing, I have been immeasurably blessed and have deeply grown as a person. I am proud of the conscious human and parent that I have come to be. And I highly encourage all – pregnant women themselves, spouses, parents, grandparents, friends, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, strangers, and political representatives, to support and uplift pregnant women so that they can make informed choices, moral choices and seek the best outcomes for the support and enrichment of their unborn children.

Additionally, I find the notion of expanded abortion in Maine to be utterly disgusting, immoral and nothing for the great State of Maine to be proud of.