

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Christina Ouellette and I live in Bradley. I am here today to testify in opposition of LD 1619.

Last year I ran for House District 26. Obviously I was not elected to this position; however, I would like to share with you what I heard from many of the constituents I spoke with while on the campaign trail. As you know, the Roe v. Wade controversy was a hot topic at the time and a lot of people were either confused or very passionate about the topic of abortion. I am here today to tell you that whether someone was for or against abortion being legal, almost every person I spoke to was against late-term abortion, especially for reasons other than the health of the mother.

As you are aware, in October of 2022 Governor Mills publicly announced to the people of Maine that she supported Maine's current abortion law and had no plans to change it. Imagine our surprise when we were completely blindsided by this proposed bill, which changes so much about abortion in our state. You should know that I have spoken to many people who feel they have been lied to and are unhappy with these changes. If you have not spoken with your constituents, on both sides of the abortion debate, since this new bill has become public, might I humbly suggest that you do so. You may just find that not as many people as you expect actually support the language it contains.

I understand some people believe that abortion is a woman's rights issue. But when do the rights of the baby count? At what point does the baby's life matter? I ask you, when did we become a society where some people find it acceptable to terminate the life of a full-term, healthy baby, just because?

I would also like to ask all of you who expect to have grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or other babies in your future, how would you feel if that precious baby's life was terminated as it was ready to enter this world? I sincerely ask each of you to consider that scenario as you make your determination about this bill, and I urge you to vote ought not to pass. I can tell you that my biggest regret for not winning a seat in the State House is that I do not have the chance to vote against it.

I know you've all had a very long day, and I thank you for allowing me to speak.

Sincerely,

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