

Testimony of David C Burns
before
the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary
May 1, 2023
LD 1619 An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am David Burns from Whiting, former member of our House of Representatives and Senate. During my eight years in the Legislature, I had the privilege of serving on this Committee for four years and with some of you serving here now. But I can say that it's with a very heavy heart that I am appearing here before you today! I am here today to express my strong **opposition to LD 1619**.

Those who come to the Legislature to testify on a bill most always try to express something profound, which may get committee members' attention or gain their support. I only hope to cause you to think through what is before you in this bill, **very carefully**. If passed, LD 1619 would make Maine only 1 of six states in the nation to do so and become the most extreme abortion legislation in the nation. Maine would become an extreme outlier.

I see the incentive for this bill more as a financial one, rather than an effort to enhance "reproductive rights". Those responsible for its inception know that it would draw abortion services, financial resources and clients from across the Country.

Abandoning the requirements that an abortion should only be performed prior to "viability", unless a qualified physician determines it necessary after "viability", becomes a cruel and unjust assault on our most venerable humans. Going back to sanctioning "back alley" abortions by unqualified persons by decriminalizing them (which this bill prescribes) is contrary to all the logic and arguments previously used in support of abortions and contrary to everything this State and our people stand for.

Finally, this legislation will clearly lead to barbaric, selective abortions, when it is determined that some mental or physical defect may be present, prior to birth. My wife and I adopted a 2 ½ year old boy with Autism and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Eric is 39 years old now and we cannot imagine our lives without him. His life is as precious and wonderful as mine or any of yours! Had this bill been law before he was born, Eric probably would have been terminated.

This should not be a political discussion, but one of facts, science, right and wrong. I implore each one of you to very carefully think through all the terrible implications this legislation has for our State, our citizens and unborn babies. I promise that I have prayed that for each one of you Judiciary members to do just that! Thank you for listening to me.