

Good evening Senator Carney and Representative Moonen and honorable members of the joint standing committee on judiciary.

My name is Shannon Van Dyke and I am from Lewiston. I work in downtown Lewiston as a triage nurse in primary care. That means when a woman calls seeking an abortion, they talk to me. I am here in opposition to LD 1619.

The problem with this bill is the ability of the medical provider to determine when it is medically necessary to perform a late term abortion. This is too vague and does not protect the vulnerable. This bill was drafted to support mothers, as a Frontline healthcare worker, I can guarantee you that this bill does not do that.

The people that I serve do not need another medical procedure to temporarily relieve their burdens. These moms need you and I to step up and give them the opportunity to thrive as mothers.

Why doesn't WIC cover diapers or wipes? Why isn't baby formula affordable? Why are the wait-lists six months long for psychiatric care for the struggling parent? Where is the affordable childcare for the working mom? Where is the paid paternity leave for dads who choose to be supportive? Where is the safe, affordable housing for the single mom?

I advocate on the behalf of the immigrant, the mentally ill, the abused, and those living poverty. Do not sweep the burdens that mothers face under the rug in a sterile room in the name of medical care. Mother's need support, not a longer time frame for termination. It is time for you as legislators and us as a community to step up and come alongside mothers as they raise the next generation. On behalf of my people I serve, I ask you not to pass this bill.