

My name is Trish Berube, and I live in Lewiston and I'm here to oppose LD1619.

Everyone who has looked into the eyes of their newborn baby is transcended to a place that reaches beyond their roles as mother and father. A woman who conceives a child is a mother, whether she raises the child, gives the child up for adoption, or consents to an abortion. We know these women as our friends, wives, sisters, our family, our loved ones. Once conception happens, if no one interferes, and if everything goes well, about nine months later, the pregnancy terminates, and there's a baby. A human being. A human life.

When a woman carrying a child in her womb decides it's ok to end that life it is a denial of her feminine nature, and everything that goes along with the gift of womanhood. A denial of her ability to nurture, to care for, and to bring forth new life.

It's no secret that abortion harms women. There are organizations that only exist to help women find forgiveness, and recover due to the physical and psychological harm from having procured an abortion. Just over a decade ago, the British Journal of Psychiatry reviewed 22 major studies done between 1995 and 2009 that examined the psychological effects of abortion on women. What they found includes the following:

- There is an 81% increased risk for mental health problems, 10 percent of which is directly attributable to the abortion.
- 27% of women are more likely to use self-soothing drugs.
- 21% are more likely to display suicidal behaviors.
- 35% are more likely to commit suicide.

Not to mention the devastating psychological and physical consequences:

- Alcoholism
- Child abuse
- Divorce & Relationship problems
- Drug abuse
- Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS)
- Psychological Impairment
- Repeat Abortions
- Sleep disorders
- Suicide
- Thoughts of Suicide
- Deaths
- Immediate complications
- Breast cancer
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Placenta previa
- Uterine perforation
- Stillbirth
- Premature delivery
- Low birth weight
- Miscarriage

With the death of Roe v Wade it's time to help women heal from their abortions. Pass supporting bills that help mothers protect the life growing in them! Let us begin a time of national healing from abortion, by creating bills and programs that will generate a tidal wave of healing across the country, and set a positive and life affirming example! For the sake of our children, please vote "ought not to pass."