

May 1, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen

~~Madame Chair~~ and honorary members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Matthew Bouchard and I am encouraging you to vote **Ought Not to Pass** LD 1619. I am a lifelong Mainer, born and raised in the County, I attended Husson University earning my Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy and I work in Penobscot county doing geriatric home healthcare. I am here today so that you can see with your own eyes the type of person that could have been a candidate for late term abortion. My mother became pregnant when she was 17 and carried me during her Senior year of High School. When she initially told my biological father that she was pregnant, he asked her to have an abortion, thank God my mother is a woman of faith and the unknown did not deter her. No money, no job, trying to finish high school pregnant, the ideal target consumer for an abortion. I have gone on to provide care for thousands of patients through my job. I'm here to tell you that actions have significant consequences.

Recently a friend of mine was pregnant. Something concerning came up on the ultrasound early on and her Dr. ordered high resolution tests and referred to a specialist to determine what was wrong. What they were seeing would result in a child that was not fully formed and likely not survivable outside the womb. They were highly encouraged to terminate the pregnancy. At 33 weeks she had a high resolution MRI and the abnormality that was previously life threatening was completely gone. Unexplainable was what their medical doctor told them. They gave birth to a healthy baby boy 6 weeks ago. The certified medical doctors with years of medical experience were absolutely wrong, and if my friends had not had a strong faith in God, this would have resulted in terminating a healthy fetus. Science couldn't explain it. Now some want to remove protections so that any non certified healthcare professional can perform without penalty? This bill would allow anyone to take a viable fetus piece by piece by piece out of a woman? This is disgusting and if the health of the mother is the concern these basic protections would not be removed.

In October of 2022, Governor Mills looked directly into a camera at a Town Hall and said to her supporters and I quote "I have no plans to change the current law," in reference to a question about current Maine law on abortion. What has changed in the last few months? Why did the Governor lack the courage to state openly to the public while she was running for Governor that she supported abortion at any stage? The reason is the majority of Maine people do not support full term abortion.

Supporters of this bill took an oath to represent Maine people. Not just the extreme members of your party. The majority of Mainers do not support abortion at any time. My concern is Planned Parenthood, as a major democratic donor has been caught selling aborted fetal material. Is that why Maine is so desirable to them?

Please vote **Ought Not to Pass**

Respectfully, Matthew Bouchard
Resident of Milford, Maine