

Madam/Mister Chair & Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am speaking against Bill LD1619

My name is Ruth Jones I live in Windham Maine, I am a parent and very proud grandmother, I have taught in Preschool-PreK programs for more than 20 years; I have a degree in Early Childhood Education, and my BHP for special needs along with many certifications and trainings to work with Children and Families in the field of Early Childhood as well as with Special Needs.

At just twenty-two I found that I was pregnant with my second child, at that time I had left a very difficult marriage and was living as a single parent working full time, while living in the only apartment that I could afford, in a tough area of Portland, my apartment was small with no central heating.

At the time I found out I was pregnant I had been physically sick, losing weight and having pains that could not be explained, which led to my need of seeing a doctor at the clinic; eventually it was found that I was pregnant, they immediately scheduled me for an ultrasound to determine how far along the pregnancy was and any difficulties.

During the ultrasound several doctors came into the room to view the baby on ultrasound, I could sense something was very wrong. Consequently, I was told that the baby was not developing normally showing a great deal of excess fluid in her skull effecting the development of her brain and that she would not be born without serious developmental problems. I was also advised that considering my young age and life circumstances an abortion was their best recommendation.

They gave me the phone number to set up an abortion and sent me home. I seriously considered and even called to set up an abortion however I ended up hanging up the phone and not following through.

Even though I came from a very dysfunctional family background myself, I knew the life growing inside me was real and deserving of a chance, not just a choice for me to end making my life easier.

I went back to the clinic a month later and of course another ultrasound was done, not only was she developing perfectly she was and is perfect in every way.

I am proud to say that my daughter grew to be a true blessing, she was on the honor roll her entire school career and even won State of Maine Math Championship in the 5th grade, she has traveled all over the world in her job, bought and owned her own home before she married and now the mother of two very beautiful little girls. She is a successful woman an amazing mother and wife.

She also is “life” and contributor to human life and society that may never have been had I chose to follow the doctor’s advice and have the abortion.

Thank you for your time, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak the truth on such an Important matter today.