

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Alisha Bragg and I am a resident of Sidney. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

The thought of carrying a baby to full term and then not having the reward of their presence earth-side is barbaric.

Before the arrival of my two red-headed daughters, I had two miscarriages. The physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual toll that those took on me are hard to describe. I got so used to throwing up that I could open a car door quickly and continue on my commute without much of a pause. I would vomit a dozen times a day or more. I would say "for the joy set before me" and press on with the dreadful pregnancy symptoms. However, when I had to part with those precious cells at 16 and then 10 weeks I was left feeling hollow. I would have been able to rationalize the suffering if I had a baby in my arms at the end of it all. The grief that enveloped me after my miscarriages was a kind of burden that I had never known before.

Physically, I was so very depleted, and discovered that I had a significant B12 deficiency and my body was not up taking or absorbing it as it should due to a genetic methylation issue. I am so grateful for my two healthy pregnancies that my body was able to bring to full-term. Since then I have needed over a 4 year break before conceiving again to bring my levels up to a healthy pregnancy place.

All this to say, in my opinion this bill is not pro-woman. Why would there be allowances for women to pour their own bodies nutritional reserves for MONTHS into growing a human. Further, the negative impact that this bill will have emotionally and mentally if it passes is massive. Please consider the multifaceted and unnecessary burden that this would place on the women in Maine.

Thank you for your time,
Alisha Bragg
Sidney