

Testimony

My name is Tiffany Clark, of Skowhegan, and I am here in opposition of LD 1619.

I am a registered nurse, certified lactation counselor, sexual risk avoidance educator, and mother of two. I began my career as a labor and delivery and postpartum nurse and I currently serve women facing unexpected pregnancies.

LD1619 goes too far. Abortion at any time for any reason is unnecessary and inhumane. There is never a medical indication for abortion in the third trimester. In the case that a woman or her pre-born child has a life-threatening condition, and continuation of pregnancy is inadvisable, the quickest and safest way to separate mom and baby is not by murder of the baby, but delivery of the baby. The dilation and evacuation process that is third trimester abortions typically takes several days, in contrast to an emergency cesarean, which can occur in minutes and not only saves the life of the mother, but ideally, also that of the child. If a health condition will inevitably result in the death of a child, the humane solution would be delivery followed by natural death, not injection, brutal dismembering, and skull crushing.

I am no stranger to difficult pregnancies. I feel immense empathy for women facing the challenges of pregnancy unexpectedly.

But women deserve better than abortion and they deserve better than the risks that come with it. Risks of abortion increase with progression of gestation - the risk of death from septic abortion is only one example - and expanding abortion in Maine to the extent that it would be one of the most extreme laws in our entire nation - will increase the incidence of complications and worsen prognoses for women. It is not right for Maine. It is not right for women.

I urge you to vote "ought not to pass". Thank you.