

May 1, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Stacey Modrusan, and I am a resident of Hermon. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I am a mother of 4 children. I also worked as a Sonographer, aka Ultrasound Technologist, for 19 years. This included 6 years in Maternal Fetal Medicine, which is for those experiencing a higher risk pregnancy.

I believe abortion at any time, for any reason is too extreme for Maine. It particularly disturbs me that anyone would think it okay to abort a baby who is considered full-term. This bill would allow babies that are able to live outside the womb to be brutally killed via abortion. Every human deserves a chance at life. An unborn baby at any stage of gestation is a living human being. They all deserve the right to live.

Over the many years in my professional role, I have encountered many different heartbreaking situations. Many of these situations also included moments of great joy. I have witnessed many mothers and couples who have regretted a previous abortion, or changed their mind during their pregnancy and were beyond grateful that they chose life for their child.

I've also been part of discovering many different genetic conditions and anomalies. I've talked at great length with families experiencing these situations, during various stages of their pregnancies, and after the birth of their children. I've seen many who were initially upset, and over time they realized that their child was a gift regardless. I've seen those who cherished the brief time they had with their child, whether it be only during pregnancy, a few moments after birth, a couple days, weeks, months. They all mourned the loss of their child. They all knew their child was an individual person.

I have seen babies who have survived premature births, as early as 22- or 23-weeks gestation. Yes, this early! This is not anywhere near full-term. I have seen those who were told that their child would experience great difficulty in life or even that their child was non-viable. Yes, this ended up being the case many times, but there were also those who beat their given odds. Any child regardless of any disability is able to bring great joy to others, especially their family.

Everyone deserves to live the life they were given by God. We have no right to end the life of any child. Again, please vote ought not pass on LD 1619. This is too extreme and unwanted in Maine.

Thank you.

Stacey Modrusan
Hermon, Maine