

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am David Crossman USN Ret and a Physician Assistant, and I live in Lisbon Falls. At 74 years old I haven't practiced in many years; I am fully retired. Back in the day when I delivered my first baby I went back to my room and cried; it was such a beautiful experience. I stand before you in opposition to LD 1619; this bill ought not to pass.

With LD 1619, it is no longer a discussion of destroying a fetus, which is immoral on its own; now we are talking about an unborn child.

The Supreme Court held that 'personhood' could not be granted until the stage of viability. But we should put on our flak jackets because that battle will go on for a long time.

According to the Cleveland clinic you can:

- Hear an unborn heartbeat around 10 weeks.
- An unborn child can move its limbs around 20 weeks.
- At 26 weeks which is the last week of the second trimester, the viability rate is between 86-89%

Let me introduce you to Dr. Anthony Levatino, a famous physician who used to be staunchly pro-choice. During his professional career, Dr. Levatino performed over 1,200 abortions. After his daughter was hit by a car and killed, Dr. Levatino underwent a conversion and stopped doing abortions altogether. There was no difference between an aborted unborn child and his daughter. Dr. Levatino went to work at a tertiary Hospital in Albany N.Y. The hospital only took in the highest risk with severe complicated pregnancies. They were pregnant women with cancer, heart disease, toxemia etc. Dr. Levatino was on staff there for nine years. During an interview he was asked how many unborn children did he have to kill to save the life of the mother, his response was zero. He would stabilize the mother and deliver the child, oftentimes via C-section.

What about a girl that is raped by a man and conceives a child? What happened in that situation is that man committed a heinous act of dehumanization and degradation. He objectified and used that girl to take something that he wanted, most likely through violence. That act was unquestionably wrong, inhumane, and a deplorable atrocity. Rightly, we seek to punish such crimes to the fullest extent of the law. So, what is next? If that pregnant woman or girl gets an abortion, that "circle of violence" is completed.

Not only has one innocent life been taken advantage of, but the innocent life of another has been taken. Both of their rights have been violated and stripped of them. And as terrible as the circumstance is, it's not made better, it's actually made far worse, by killing this unborn child. And it also saddles this girl with a lifetime of sadness and other problems that will arise in due time as a result of this abortion."

Remember we can't allow a woman's right to choose to annihilate an unborn child's right to live. Please vote ought not to pass.