

My name is Alicia Lawson, I'm a mother of 5, a resident of Winthrop and I'm here to express my sincere opposition to LD 1619.

Approximately 20 years ago, I stood up in front of my high school classmates and spoke out about the gruesome practice of partial birth abortion. Who knew that years 20 later, I'd be standing before you all to stand up for life.

Janet Mills broke her campaign promise with her attempt to expand abortion up to any point in a woman's pregnancy, citing the unfortunate story of baby Cameron, who had a lethal form of skeletal dysplasia.

Cameron's parents chose to end his suffering by having a late term abortion, for which Maine law already grants medical exception for.

But I find myself wondering, how do we judge whose suffering is worthy of a death sentence?

Does one not think about the suffering a baby goes through during an abortion procedure, when it's limbs are torn from its body?

Allow me to quote the words of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director who witnessed an ultrasound-guided abortion:

"When I looked on the screen, I saw a baby. I saw the probe going into the woman's uterus, and then at that moment, I saw the baby moving, and trying to get away from the probe. And I thought, it's fighting for its life.

Its life.

It's alive.

And then all of a sudden it was just over, like in the blink of an eye, and I saw the baby just crumble, and I was thinking, there was life in here, and now there's not."

Ending suffering can look like compassion, but I stand here to warn humanity of the slippery slope we are on.

Whose suffering is worthy of a death sentence?

An unwanted full term baby? An elderly person in a nursing home? Someone with a mental illness?

The decisions you make today set legal precedent, I ask each of you, please choose wisely.

Thank you.