

Stacey K. Guerin
Senator, District 4



3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

Testimony of Senator Stacey Guerin
In opposition to L.D. 1619, An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws
Before the Judiciary Committee
May 1, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary: I am Senator Stacey Guerin and I represent District 4, which includes all of Piscataquis County and 11 communities in Penobscot County. Please accept my testimony in opposition to L.D. 1619, *An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws*.

As a woman who came of age in the generation of abortion legalization, my friends and I were told by the abortion industry that abortions were not killing babies, instead telling us the fetus was just a "blob of tissue". However, scientific medical advances has proved, that as young women, we were lied to.

The evolution of ultrasound technology has been monumental, and it is a critical component of modern healthcare, providing real-time imaging of developing babies, the heart and brain amongst many other things. According to the Cleveland Clinic, a prenatal ultrasound "is one of the few ways your pregnancy care provider can see and hear your baby. It can help them determine how far along you are in pregnancy, if your baby is growing properly or if there are any potential problems with the pregnancy."¹ Ultrasound images clearly show little boys and girls sucking their thumbs, stretching and turning. Many people share ultrasound pictures and name their child long before the baby makes its sunshine debut.

While viability is considered to be between 23 and 24 weeks, a 12-week gestation ultrasound clearly shows a baby. This legislation would remove the provision in law that states after viability, an abortion may *only* be performed "to preserve the life or health of the mother". Under L.D. 1619, the decision would be up to a physician who could use any of the following reasons for why an abortion is necessary: (mother) is not financially or mentally prepared to parent, has relationship issues with partner, (baby) would interfere with future plans. According to data from the Charlotte Lozier Institute, which analyzed reasons for abortion in eight states, 95.7% of abortions were for elective and unspecified reasons.²

Babies in utero are not just a blob of tissue, they are real human beings. Please join me in supporting these pre-born babies by opposing L.D. 1619.

¹ Ultrasound in Pregnancy. *Cleveland Clinic, September 2022.*

² Fact Sheet: Reasons for Abortion. *Charlotte Lozier Institute, August 2022.*