

**Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:**

**My name is Heidi Dockendorff, and I'm a resident of Dixmont. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.**

**I grew up here in Maine. Upon graduating high school, I followed my dream of attending college in California.**

**The beginning of my second year in college, I discovered I was pregnant. The father wanted nothing to do with me.**

**The thought of abortion -I am ashamed to admit- did cross my mind. Though I knew, if I took my baby's life, I would take mine too.**

**For this baby was innocent; she had nothing to do with coming into existence. I thought of adoption but this baby was a part of me.**

**On my 21st birthday, I was told I had cervical cancer. The doctor brought up abortion, but I said no.**

**So I left college and returned home to Maine, giving birth on Easter morning to my beautiful baby girl, Audrey.**

**Shortly after, I had the cervical cancer removal procedure.**

**My second baby, Keith, was born six weeks early. He weighed 4lb, 1ounce. Keith was so tiny you could hold him in the palm of your hand.**

**He remained in the hospital for two weeks after his birth, because his lungs needed to develop a little more.**

**For years, he seemed smaller than boys his age, but looking at him now you'd never have guessed he was a preemie.**

**The Lord has blessed my husband and me, and our family.**

**The Lord's grace and mercy has sustained us through many trials over our current 38 years together.**

**He has been and will ever be faithful.**

**Please: Be faithful to those who are most innocent, pure, and unable to defend themselves.**

**Oppose this inhumane bill LD1619.**

**Please vote ought not to pass.**