

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

My name is Kent Smallwood, and I am a resident of Hampden. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Those of us standing in opposition to this bill are male and female of varying ages and backgrounds. As Men, we have always been part of this issue. Women's decisions about pregnancy are undeniably affected by the actions and attitudes of their male partners. Men volunteer to help moms and dads learn parenting skills. Men provide financial support to struggling families. Men counsel and influence other men to honor women and to take accountability. Men, in part, adopt and raise children that some mother's selflessly give up. And some men, like me, have had to care for a woman who was injured and scared by an abortionist.

As a young adult, the mother of my child decided to have an abortion against my will. She sustained an injury from the abortion that led to a severe hemorrhage. As she was writhing in pain and losing blood rapidly, I raced as fast as I could to the ER. When we arrived, they rushed her into emergency surgery. She narrowly escaped with her Life. This bill not only makes it legal to murder more defenseless babies, but decreasing penalties for individuals who perform "back-alley" abortions can cause more women to suffer like my former partner did.

Regardless of our gender or any other factors, we know that this is violence against the innocent. I am against the murder of these precious babies at any time. But please consider the impact of this bill. Under this bill, your loved ones, on the same day they were born, could have been terminated—murdered.

We must not deny the humanity, personhood, and uniqueness of these precious defenseless unborn babies. Science continues to shine a light on this truth. There are many victims, including your conscience and that of our collective society. What are we telling our kids and citizens if we are willing to sacrifice our babies? We will not stand idle while this goes on in our state. We will pull back the curtain and shine light onto this atrocity. Regardless of your vote, we will continue to be pro-women, pro-children, and pro-family—before and after birth. I stand for those things, because of the Love and Truth I receive from My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please search your heart. Be a light. Do not push us deeper into darkness. Vote ought not to pass.