

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

My name is Courtney Giovinazzi, and I'm a resident of West Bath. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

In order for Maine to become a state the Missouri Compromise of 1820 would have to pass. This would set the precedent for the expansion of slavery throughout the country. Mainers were directly opposed to the spread of slavery. This was a difficult choice for the seven state representatives, a vote for the compromise would spread slavery, a vote against, Maine would not become a state. Here I quote the Maine State Museum, "in the end only two of the seven voted in favor of Maines statehood. The other five could not bear to vote in favor of the expanding slavery in America, even if it meant losing the opportunity to become an independent state." They actually voted against statehood! And what pushed them into that, their conscience, they knew slavery was morally wrong even though it was not obvious to all Americans. The representatives of 1820 are now looked upon as upstanding, brave, might I say heroic. They stood against great pressures and chose the higher ground. As representatives of the great state of Maine you have excellent examples of courage to turn to.

The country again is looking to our state to see how we will vote, there is a lot of pressure, there are innocent lives at stake. This bill is wrong for the State of Maine. Maine has a policy to preserve the life of the mother, under title 22. Expanding abortion as proposed by this bill would open the doors to unimaginable outcomes. Please do not test the strength of the human condition. The purposeful death of a viable baby with no restrictions, even up to the point of birth, is inconceivable and deplorable. Removing punishment for unlicensed abortionists is reckless.

I believe that in your heart of hearts you each know this bill goes too far, but you have been under extreme pressure and influence to vote for this bill. There is no good in it, there is great good in voting against it. Show the country again that Maine has a strong moral standing, that we stand for what is right against pressures. Be courageous. Show that we uphold the ideals of the statement, "The way life should be." The people of Maine are with those of you who vote against this bill, you are not alone. Please vote ought not to pass.