

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee; my name is Dana Peirce and I live in Yarmouth, Maine.

On January 25th, 2019, I was 32 weeks pregnant with my son Cameron. That morning, my husband and I, along with our 3 year old daughter, went to what we expected to be a routine ultrasound in a normal pregnancy. The foremost thought in my mind was that I would get some new pictures of Cameron—the last had been from his anatomy scan at 20 weeks, which was normal.

However, the scan that day showed that Cameron had lethal skeletal dysplasia, the result of a random, rare genetic mutation. It is lethal because babies with this condition cannot breathe outside the womb—their rib cages are too small. He also had healed fractures throughout his body, and his femur was broken.

Cameron was suffering, and he faced death by suffocation if he survived delivery. I still cannot adequately express the intensity of anguish and grief that my husband and I felt in those moments. But I must emphasize that my strongest thoughts were that I would not let my son suffer any longer than he already had.

Unfortunately, our grief was then compounded by Maine's current law, which banned my doctors from providing the care they recommended. My husband and I had to fly across the country and pay \$25,000 cash in order to end our son's suffering, while also incurring the costs of travel, lodging, and missed work. The majority of Mainers do not have such financial resources.

Mine was a very sad situation made much worse by Maine's current law. Today, you have an opportunity to make sure no other Maine families have to go through what mine did.

Everyone deserves safe, legal, compassionate, affordable healthcare and support throughout pregnancy. Abortion for any reason is a deeply personal decision, one that should be left to pregnant people and their medical team.

There is no way to legislate every instance of every pregnancy and account for what each family needs. I'm sharing my story with you today because I want to reduce the harm and suffering our current laws force upon women who find themselves in situations like I did.

Please join me in trusting and empowering women to make ethical, loving decisions for their own bodies and lives. Please support both LD 1619 and LD 1343. Thank you.