

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Janel StPeter and I currently live in Bangor, although I'll always be a county girl, and I'm here today to testify in support of LD 1343 and LD 1619.

My mom had two children when she was a teenager. My older sister had a teenage pregnancy. I felt lucky I did not have a teenage pregnancy. Many years later and I am with my soulmate. Once we decided to start trying to have children, we discovered it wasn't luck preventing my teenage pregnancies, it was PCOS.

Within the last five years of our relationship we have spent over thirty thousand dollars trying to have a healthy pregnancy and my medical records show I have had three abortions. Abortions that saved my life. Three of my pregnancies grew either in my fallopian tube or elsewhere in my body that couldn't sustain life. With two of those pregnancies, I had a fallopian tube rupture before I could even see an ultrasound of their heartbeat. I didn't know when I went into surgery for those ruptures that the surgery would be documented as an abortion. The miscarriage I had with Lanni is also considered a spontaneous abortion in medical terminology.

A few years after losing Kayden, I transferred to another OBGYN office due to the trauma I experienced from going to the office where I lost Khalon, Asher, and Kayden. Luckily I live in a town where I have the option to choose my OBGYN office and I don't have to travel far for care. I still get surprised when telling others that my pregnancy losses are considered abortions. This concerns me because about 20% of the population have fertility issues.

I'm currently infertile because I had to have my fallopian tubes removed due to my ectopic pregnancies and the only way I can conceive now is through IVF. I know people opposed to abortion won't stop with abortion bans, I fear they will go after IVF and related care, and I don't want that to happen in Maine or anywhere.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1343 and LD 1619. Thank you.