

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary: My name is Eric Perkins, and I'm a resident of Orrington. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619. I am very concerned with the plan to change Maine abortion laws to allow the termination of babies up until the moment of birth. The most logical argument for this change is to prevent harm to the mother's health or mental wellbeing in the case of rape. According to the Guttmacher Institute's survey from 2004, only 7% of abortions were due to fetal/maternal health problems, and less than 0.5% of abortions were cases of pregnancy from rape. This means more than 92% of abortions had nothing to do with medical necessity.

I am a registered nurse in this state, and I disagree with the claim that abortion is healthcare. No one would undergo a procedure that ensured half of the people involved would die. As a nurse, I have spent more than 20 years in the medical field. In that time, I have seen professionals fighting to save lives, and patients and their families hoping and praying for better health and more time together. This is the only situation that argues for less life and more death. The idea is outright inhumane.

I know some would say as a man I don't have as much of a right to speak, or my opinion isn't as important. However, I do have a perspective that should be heard. I am the father of three precious daughters. I was the father of a little one who never made it to birth. I would have been the father of an adopted son if that plan had been successful. I felt the weight and joy of fatherhood when I saw their ultrasounds. While I could never know what it feels like to carry an unborn life, I saw the joy, excitement, and hope for the future every time, in my wife's face. I also saw her despair with our miscarriage and failed adoption. Why were we so affected by these little ones, and those who rally to abort more babies are not? I would say it comes down to valuing life. Those that want the right for any mother to kill a perfectly healthy and viable baby are declaring those children are disposable. We as a society cannot allow this to happen. We cannot choose whether someone dies based on someone else's opinion of their worth. We have seen this play

out in history, and it is always horrific. All life is sacred. Ultimately, this appears to be based not on the desire of the people of Maine, but rather on the wicked desire for political clout by our Governor and some lawmakers who support her. Please, do not do this. History will judge us harshly if we choose to kill the innocent. If you are at all interested in bringing an end to the lack of civility and disregard for human life in our society, I implore you to start here. Protect the unborn! Protect the innocent! Do not abandon your humanity! Please vote ought not to pass.