

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

My name is Keirsti Smith and currently live in Waterville
and have been a citizen of Maine my whole life.
I am here to testify against LD 11619.

I was shocked and saddened to learn that our
lawmakers were trying to pass into law that a child
could be killed up to the very minutes before it is
born. This is an egregious breach of trust by the
people who were voted in by the citizens of Maine
to protect all citizens. It is mystifying to me
how our lawmakers can justify this act. There
are already laws in place for situations of medical
necessity. It is my personal experience that any
abortion is extreme. My husband and I had to
make that heartbreaking, life altering decision.

In 2005 during my second pregnancy it was
discovered via ultrasound that the baby I was
carrying had a birth defect in his little brain.
I was around twenty weeks along by the time
it was discovered, I was referred to Maternal Fetal
Medicine in Portland where through more advanced
ultrasound it was confirmed that, indeed, there was
an anomaly in my child's brain. The Doctor there
sat us down and explained that he had no idea

What was wrong it could be a fatty tumor, a cyst, a blood clot, a malignant tumor. He offered no advice on what would happen if my child was carried to full term and born. When I specifically asked him, "Does this mean he won't be able to play football or will he be in a vegetative state his whole life?" He just said he didn't know.

My husband and I were stunned and faced with this devastating news when the Doctor spoke and said, "Everyone wants a perfect baby so you should terminate this pregnancy and try again for a perfect baby". That news was delivered to us in a calloused, non-challant manner as if not even talking about a human being. Then he told us we were at the point in the pregnancy that we needed to make this decision in mere days!

My husband and I were callously pushed to make this heartbreaking decision without answers to any of our questions or time to even think, or any alternatives such as 1st choice pregnancy ctr.

I am ashamed to say I would have willingly killed my son if it had not been for my husband's conviction, courage and resolve that every life is precious. No one was going to take his son from him no matter what medical need or "perceived inconvenience" it might bring.

We were pushed in a direction that

would have ended my son's life. There was no information given and no alternative suggestions there wasn't even information on what the actual diagnosis was. Just "Everyone wants a perfect baby".

As it turns out my son Maxwell, was born a perfectly healthy, normal functioning child. We give God the credit for that!

I see signs that say "Abortion is Healthcare" but there was nothing healthy or caring about what happened to us! Every human soul has a right to life. This law if passed is too extreme for Maine regardless of if you are Pro-choice or not. Late-term abortion is wrong!