

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Nathan Persinger, and I am a resident of Hampden. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

When is enough, enough? Where do we stop? Is the next step to allow post-birth abortion? Or how about euthanasia of the mentally handicapped or elderly? Legalizing abortion up to birth is a step in that direction. Ask yourselves, when will we reach a point where the momentum of such "progress" cannot be stopped? It's happened before and it will happen again. We should be moving in the opposite direction.

Let me also point out the hypocrisy of this bill. A common claim of pro-choice advocates is that without expanded abortion rights women will be forced into "back-alley" abortions. Why then does this bill remove the penalties levied on a provider for performing an abortion without being properly licensed? Doesn't this defeat the purpose of protecting women? What it says, is that LD 1619 is not about women's health. It's about declaring open season on the most vulnerable population group. The Guttmacher Institute, an abortion rights research and policy organization, estimated that there were 930,160 abortions in the US in 2020 alone. By contrast, there were only 21,570 murders in the US in 2020 according to FBI statistics – and that was a 30% increase from 2019. America's politics have made the womb the most dangerous place in the country. We have an inalienable duty to protect the innocent and the helpless, and we cannot claim indifference.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs Chapter 24, verses 11 and 12 "Deliver those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to slaughter, oh hold them back. If you say, 'See, we did not know this,' does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?"

Let me point this out, choosing to not believe in God or His word does not make Him go away, just the same as choosing not to believe your doctor when he tells you that you have cancer does not make the tumor go away. If you do not stand against this heinous bill, then you have cast your vote to slaughter innocent children, and their blood is on your hands.

Please vote ought not to pass. May God grant you the wisdom and courage to do so.

13 For You formed my inward parts;  
 You wove me in my mother's womb.  
 14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully  
 and wonderfully made;  
 Wonderful are Your works,  
 And my soul knows it very well.  
 16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;  
 And in Your book were all written  
 The days that were ordained for me,  
 When as yet there was not one of them.  
 -Psalm 139:13, 14, 16 (NASB)

## How God Made You!

**Day 1** The moment dad's DNA combines with mom's DNA, the baby begins. This process is called fertilization and, at this stage, the baby is called a zygote. The zygote is a unique human being made in the image of God. Just like every other human being, the baby is only one cell and the size of a speck of dust.

**Day 2** The baby is now made of two cells, and at this stage is called an embryo. The baby begins the short journey inside mom to a special place called the uterus (or womb). Mom's uterus was designed by God to be the safe, warm place where the baby will develop until she is born.

**Day 6** The baby grows and develops into many more cells and nestles herself in the uterus. A new structure begins to form called the placenta. This will provide the baby with what she needs as she grows. The baby is the size of a grain of sand or a single piece of glitter.

Sadly, some people use the word "tissue" or "clump of cells" when referring to the baby so that the baby's life doesn't seem valuable or worth protecting. But the baby is a baby, a human being, right from the moment of fertilization!

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When a baby is born, he or she may look different from when he or she was first formed, but, regardless of the matter, what he looks like, he is a human being made in God's image. As he grows and develops, he grows to a valuable and baby who has been born.

**Week 5** The baby's brain, spinal cord, and nerves (which connect the brain to the rest of the body and help you move and feel) are growing. The eyes and ears start to form and the heart starts beating! The baby is the size of a sesame seed or a candy button.

**Week 6** A structure referred to as arches near the baby's head will grow into bones and muscles of the baby's head and neck. The baby is the size of a candy Nerf™.

**Week 8** The baby's arms and hands and legs and feet can now be seen. The skin is see-through and baby's growing organs can be seen. The baby is the size of a gummy bear or an apple core.

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**Week 11** All of the baby's organs have developed and will continue to grow. If mom gets an ultrasound (a special device that lets people see the baby growing in mom's uterus), she may be able to find out from the doctor if the baby is a boy or a girl! The baby is now called a fetus and is the size of a golf ball.

**Week 12** The baby can wiggle her fingers. Fingernails and fingerprints start to form. Take a look at your thumb. Do you see the patterns and shapes? Every person on the planet has unique fingerprints — no two are alike! The baby is the size of a chicken tender.

**Week 14** The placenta that began to grow on day 6 is now fully formed. The placenta provides all the food the baby needs. It also gives the baby oxygen since the baby can't breathe air inside mom's womb. It also gets rid of waste products since the baby doesn't poop and pee inside mom — that would be gross!

**Week 20** Even though the baby's eyes have not opened yet, the baby can sense light. The baby can even hear sounds like voices and music outside of mom's womb. The baby's hair is growing, and she can now taste and swallow. The baby is the size of a banana.

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**Week 27** Colored hair can now be seen growing on the baby's head. The baby "breathes" the fluid that surrounds her. She is practicing for her first breath outside mom's womb! The baby has developed a sleep schedule but many times the baby is awake and moving when mom is trying to sleep! The baby is the size of a head of cauliflower.

**Week 35** The baby's eyes are now open. She can blink and her eyes respond to light and dark. Her eyelashes have grown in. The baby's stomach, intestines, and other related organs are fully developed so she's ready to eat, poop, and pee once she's born! All the baby's systems are complete, and the baby grows quickly, gaining a half pound of weight every week. The baby is the size of a pineapple.

**Week 40** The baby's lungs are fully developed so the baby can breathe when she's born. The brain is also fully mature, and the baby is ready to be born! The baby is the size of a soccer ball.

**Week 23** The baby begins to kick and stretch, and mom can feel the baby move. The baby is "working out" and her muscles are growing stronger! The baby is the size of a grapefruit.

<sup>11</sup>Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. If you say, "See, we did not know this," <sup>12</sup>Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work? -Proverbs 24: 11, 12 (NASB)