

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

Thank you so much. My name is Jeff Mills and I am a fisherman from South Thomaston. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I talked to my eight-year-old grandson recently. I asked a few simple questions without explaining why. These were his simple and truthful answers that could be given about a child's life at any point in pregnancy and therefore, not the least, at late term.

I asked him:

Is it okay to kill something for no reason?

"NO", he said.

Is it okay to protect yourself from somebody hurting you?

"YES"

Is it okay to hurt somebody smaller than you?

"NO"

Are babies the smallest people in the world?

"YES"

Can babies protect themselves?

"NO"

Who protects babies?

"Their mom".

When babies are not born yet, who takes care of them?

"Their mom".

If a child believes these things to be self-evident, could that child ever believe that a baby ready to be born should be aborted?

I then asked him the tough question.

Should a mommy go to the hospital and ask the doctor to end her baby's life?

Very emphatically my grandson said, "no".

That a child must hope that another child's life not be ended should give anyone reason to pause. The act affects far more than the life taken. Truly a life is far more than the biological mechanism by which human life is sustained. Even the spirit of a miscarried child never leaves the heart of a mother. For a mother's unconditional love is all a child can ever hope to have, especially through pregnancy fully to term.

How is LD 1619 explained to a child? Should the explanation include that there is a difference between one and nine months, three and six, or four and five? Are we not then confusing their own self-worth? I am pretty sure that in a poll anywhere in the state that horror and dismay would peak at 9 months and be reflected in that poll.

When that same child reaches the age of reason, how does the explanation not become rationalization? Societal damage has become this. What truth cannot be best displayed in the eyes of a child? Maybe a legislator should ask a child.

Please vote ought not to pass.