

**Remarks by Matt Griffiths in Opposition to LD 1619: An Act to Improve  
Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws to the Joint Standing Committee on  
Judiciary of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine State Legislature**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**Maine State House  
Augusta, ME**

Senator Caney, Representative Moonan, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee, thank you for acknowledging my testimony in opposition to LD 1619.

My name is Matthew Griffiths and I recently moved to Kennebunk. I was born and raised in the great state of Oklahoma. Oklahoma is proud to be the most pro-life state in the country-. I was adopted at birth, my brother was adopted at birth, and in 2017 my sister was fostered at birth and my parents adopted her just a few years ago. Oklahoma is a state where the sanctity of life is taken for exactly what it is. I was raised that way. I believe that way. And for my sister's future, I am going to fight that way.

I've heard a lot of talk about extremism. If we want to talk about extremism – this right here. This Legislative Document. That's extremism. This is changing Maine law in ways that it has never been done before. And that is dangerous. And it's just plain wrong. Arguments have been made that this bill is what is in the best interest of women in the state of Maine. No. No. No. And I want to tell you why.

It says right here in the bill - feel free to pull it up and take a look. Page 2 line 4. *"This bill changes the standard for when an abortion may be performed after viability to when a licensed physician determines that it is necessary instead of when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother."* It then goes on to say *this bill removes the criminal penalties for performing an abortion without being licensed as a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse."* So, you are telling me that I need a license to drive my car. You are

telling me I need a license to smoke some weed, and in some places, I need a license to shoot off some fireworks. I believe in New York it was that a man was arrested for giving his son a tattoo because he didn't have a license to do that. Now you want to decriminalize people performing healthcare without a license. That's terrible. It's dangerous. It's negligent. And it is going to cost people their lives.

Rights for women are just as important as rights for those in the womb. Rights for those in the womb are just as important as rights for members of the LGBTQ123 community. Which I know this body cares greatly about. In 30+ states you can be charged for a double homicide if you murder a pregnant woman. We live in a world where the culture of death has become increasingly ubiquitous. Abortion has become a norm, and the value of human life has been increasingly eroded. We must remember that the right to life is the foundation of all other rights. Without it, there can be no liberty, no pursuit of happiness, and no justice. Together, we can support women facing crisis pregnancies. Together we can build a culture of life, where every human being is valued from conception to natural birth. This bill and everything it stands for is wrong. This bill is dangerous. And I encourage you to vote NO.

Thank you. God Bless you.