

Regarding LD 1619

The Act to improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws, What this act really is to remove the "viability" restriction, resulting in Maine being the 6th state USA allow murder of unborn that could survive independent of the womb, also removing penalties for botched "back alley" abortions.

Good afternoon, Judiciary Committee, my name is Karenelise Otto, I live in Augusta Maine.

I come here today to state my personal testimony, which is the catalyst to speak out against abortions, LD 1619

Women are not informed of the long-term effects, the physical, emotional, and mental reactions that are experienced when an abortion has been performed.

I am a bachelor's degree nurse as well as a patient advocate. In my profession it is law that the surgeon and nurse obtain informed consent and acknowledgement from a patient scheduled for surgery. This documentation states that they have a full understanding of all possible and potential results that might occur before, during and after a surgery. Before this consent is signed by the surgical candidate, they will verbally affirm that they have an understanding and are willing to accept any consequences that might inadvertently happen.

I know from personal experience the immediate and long-term effects this uninformed decision has had on me from my decision to abort my second baby.

Here is my story. The year is 1974, I'm 18 years old, in an abusive relationship, working as a waitress a single mother of a 2 ½ year old son. As much as I loved children, I could not imagine putting another child besides the doctor said it was not really a baby "it is just a mass of cells not a baby. I'll set up an appointment in have a D&C. It's like a vacuum cleaner, that cleans out your uterus.

At the hospital, I roomed with a 15-year-old girl whose parents forced her to travel from Florida to Pennsylvania for an abortion. She told me that a nurse used a needle and put salt water into her belly that would make her go into labor to have the baby. A few hours later she was writhing in pain with nothing administered for pain. I rang for help for her, no one came. She went into the bathroom, having no understanding what was happening. Minutes later there was a blood curdling scream, "My baby is in the toilet, it's a little baby boy". Finally, a nurse came to help, as she coldly disposed of the baby. This scene is forever burned into my secret memories. I was petrified about this D&C! Was my baby fully formed, what was this right decision? During the night I decided that I couldn't go through with it and said I planned to leave, next thing I know I was given an injection, through the haze I was taken to the operating room the abortion was performed. I was numb from the overabundance of emotions that had swept over my life in such a short

amount of time; I did not want to think at all. That's how I dealt with it, I put it from my mind, and to the point that for many years I denied that it had happened, never telling anyone.

During nurses training abortion was talked about in detail, I learned the fate of my aborted baby, still reminding myself that this was only a mass of cells, not a baby, that's what they told me. Making an uninformed decision to end a pregnancy without full disclosure should be against the law. Knowledge of the entire long term emotional, mental, physical and ethical ramification that will occur after an abortion needs to be acknowledged and affirmed by the woman. Scientific and diagnostic information of the events that the fetus will endure before it dies, the pain of being torn apart being ripped from the womb should be verbalizing the woman as well as she needs to acknowledgement that these implication's that been disclosed and agreed upon before an abortion is performed.

Meta-analysis of 22 worldwide Studies on Adverse Effects of Abortion of Mental Health used a data base of 877,181 participants, 163,831 of whom experienced an abortion, 81% increased risk for mental health problems, 34% increased risk for anxiety disorders, 37% risk for depression, 110% risk for alcohol use/abuse, 220% for marijuana use/abuse and 155% risk for suicide. Calculate over time what that will cost the taxpayers!