

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

My name is Kimberly Hutchinson and I'm a resident of Windsor. I am testifying today in staunch opposition to LD1619 and I respectfully ask you to you to vote ought not to pass.

As I'm sure you are all aware, when Governor Mills was campaigning last Fall she stated she supported Maine's current abortion law and multiple times stated she would not change it. That was a campaign promise that she promptly broke when she submitted this bill. Many Mainers support our current law, I do not, and feel abortion up to viability is sufficient. They support the exceptions to the viability rule which take the mother's life and health into account. So what is the purpose of this bill? A barbaric action which will kill a child in the most horrific manner. A child that, if allowed to be born, will live.

What is the definition of infant? Infant: a very young child or baby. Similar terms are: newborn, bairn, wean, tot, baby, babe in arms. In our home our babies had many names: Punkin, Peanut, Sissy. My 3 pregnancies were for the most part uncomplicated, until they weren't. My first daughter decided 19 days early sounded like to good time to make a very prolonged entrance into the world. She was beautiful, healthy, and very much able to survive. I will never forget the feelings that flooded my heart the moment they placed her in my arms. My world changed forever! Incidentally, that baby girl started her internship at an architectural firm in Portland this morning and my heart explodes with pride at the young lady she has become. As a new mom, I was unaware of so many things. I was unprepared for the emotions, the intense love that would sweep over me the moment "Momhood" became tangible. As my husband's grandfather used to say, you don't know what you don't know. No statement could be truer about becoming a mom or dad. I fear for the moms, and yes they are moms, who make the decision to kill the child in their womb, especially at this later stage in pregnancy. The emotional rollercoaster that will hit them, literally nothing in this world will prepare them for that. When they see a baby being nursed, a child taking its first steps, riding a bike, stepping on the school bus, kindergarten, prom pictures flooding Facebook and Instagram, graduations, weddings, funerals. How many times in a mother's lifetime will she relive that decision. Every day. A child is not the only one that dies that day. Anyone that is a parent knows exactly what I'm talking about.

So I'm asking you to vote ought not to pass, not only for the life of the precious child that would be taken from this world, but for the moms and dads who are left behind to live in this world without them. Because those who don't know, don't know. But those of us who do know, have a responsibility to protect them. Thank you.