

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

The current law permits abortion until the baby is able to sustain life outside of the womb. This happens approximately 24 weeks after conception. There is already a law in place to protect the mother if an abortion is deemed medically necessary after that time period.

Governer Mills herself stated in her campaign that she had no intention of supporting changing the current abortion laws.

If any of you have children or grandchildren and have held them the day that they were born, can you imagine allowing someone to murder them that very day before they came out of the mother. So much medical research and advancement in technology has been done to preserve these little lives. If a baby is born weeks prematurely, everything possible is done to keep that baby alive and healthy. How can we as Mainers think of ending

a life that is ready to live independently so callously when so much effort has been made to preserve a life that is not yet ready to survive on its own accord?

As a Registered Nurse I have visited the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. I have seen babies that would be candidates for this bill if it were to pass. To harm one of these helpless babies would be barbaric. It is our job to protect the children, not murder them.

I am asking you to search your heart and soul, and oppose this unnecessary, drastic bill. Thank you.