

Testimony regarding LD 1619

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

My name is Rand Clark and I'm here from Dayton Maine with my wife Susan of 41 years. We have four children that we raised here in Maine and 10 grandchildren.

Children are a gift and a treasure. They are our future. They are the solutions of tomorrow for the challenges that we face today.

One of her grandchildren was born premature and under 3 pounds at birth. Today, Emerick Clark is strong and healthy, and a blessing to those around him. We are thankful that his parents chose life.

Without a doubt, each of us have rights as individuals at the same time the DNA of a baby in the mother's womb is different DNA, which is evidence that this is a different person: an individual with rights to LIFE, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Certainly individuals have rights, including the mother who is pregnant. However, we as a society collectively determine and decide what laws we will all live by and what we will encourage, and so it is right, that we participate in the laws deciding about abortions.

John Donne said "no man is an island separate into himself."

Likewise, we are all interconnected, and must decide upon the laws that we are governed by collectively.

The majority of Mainers, 2/3 of which do not want late term abortion.

Should we not consider and respect the ruling of the highest court of this land or is it appropriate for us to arrogantly say that we know better?

The proposed bill is an extreme bill and our current law already addressed viability and allows for medical necessity.

So I ask you to please vote LD 6019 ought not to pass and let's choose as a state to be a state with a culture of life not a culture of death.

Thank you for your consideration.