

May 1, 2023

Public Hearing for LD 1619: An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

Testimony: Sara Bulkley, Clinton ME

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Sara Bulkley and I am a resident of Clinton. I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your service on this Committee and for representing your constituents as an elected official here in Augusta. I've never participated in this process before but my concern for the direction of our state is growing steadily and I have come to the realization that I have a responsibility to stand up and speak on very critical issues being debated and decided within the walls of this building. That being said, I am here to speak in opposition to LD 1619.

Our state is facing a decision that I firmly believe will hinge on your collective understanding or lack thereof of life and the intrinsic value of each individual. If life within the womb is not considered to be sacred and worthy of protection, then life outside the womb is equally diminished, whether we wish to acknowledge that or not. To mourn for lives lost in a school while simultaneously fighting to remove common sense limitations on abortion practices demonstrates a profound misunderstanding of our most basic right as individuals, the right to life. That right begins in the womb and comes from our Creator, not from our elected officials or a medical professional.

I understand that there are rare instances where some would say a baby is not going to survive and use that as justification for a late term abortion. I am not without compassion for those parents who walk that difficult path but the truth is that the character of an individual and of a community is built through adversity and it is not the role of government to create avenues for its citizens to avoid every difficulty that life presents. It is the role of government to ensure that its most vulnerable citizens, the unborn, are protected with the same passion and fervor as those who have been birthed.

To those who are sponsoring this bill on behalf of Governor Mills and to those who support its passing, it is to speak out of both sides of your mouth to say that you value and protect children and then also modify existing law so radically as to allow children within their mother's womb to be exterminated right up to the point of birth for any reason. Life is precious at all stages and it must be protected by those in power, if we wish to remain a civilized, peaceful people. You are in a unique position to chart the course for our beloved state and I challenge each of you to separate from the political battle being waged here and search deep within your conscience for direction on this critical issue. Our state needs leaders who are guided not by political agendas or parties but by a strong moral compass and the courage to make decisions based on what they know deep inside to be right and best for the people that they serve.

When you take this bill into your work session, I am asking that you take seriously the outpouring of opposition to this extreme measure and vote with full confidence Ought Not to Pass. And may God be with you.