

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

My name is Stacy Veevers-Carter, and I'm a resident of West Bath. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619. I hold a BA in Women's Studies and I am a Registered Nurse with clinical focus in end of life care.

Abortion advocates state that full term abortion is a difficult decision. This is because choosing to have chemicals injected into your child's body via your womb to stop the heart and soften the tissue of the baby, to incise the base of the skull and suction the brain out so the child is more easily pulled from the womb, goes against all the instincts of a pregnant woman. Women do not want to END the life of their child. They want relief from their fear.

All humans live with fear and face challenges, some more than others, like women in crisis pregnancies and like my son who lives with Down syndrome. This prenatal diagnosis has a 70% abortion rate; in Iceland that rate is 100%. Think about that.

Supporting one another in their fears and challenges is how we grow in love, patience, and a desire to serve others. It is how we build societies that work for the common good and protect its own. LD 1619 goes against what it means to be human.

End of life review is a time when decisions once made, especially those one regrets, are often revisited. Being at the bedside of hundreds of dying people I can testify to the suffering people experience when they can no longer correct wrongs. The anguish women who suffer the effects of full term abortion is very real. It will play out for the remainder of their lives, particularly at death.

Legislators of Maine, you must cast your vote for this bill in light of the fact that one day you too will do your own end of life review. True, courageous leadership demands the most vulnerable in society are preserved and protected. Do you want the unimaginable suffering of women and death of babies to be your legacy? This bill is not a legacy; it is a lie. VOTE NO ON LD 1619.

Stacy Veevers-Carter, West Bath, ME