

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

My name is Kristin Tripp, and I'm a resident of Gardiner, Maine. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

How have we come to the point that we as a state could be willing to ignore the humanity of an unborn child who is developed enough to survive outside of the womb? How are we so callous that we place our own needs and convenience above the right of another human being to... be alive?

L.D. 1619 is nothing short of barbaric and grotesque. Besides which, with adoption agencies in every state holding lists of families who are waiting months and even years to adopt infants, it's ludicrous to suggest that it's needed.

As the mother of 10 children —yes, 10— five of whom joined my family through adoption, I am intimately acquainted with a range of traumatic situations that lead to children being available for adoption. I'm in no way suggesting that carrying a baby to term, delivering it, and then placing it in the arms of strangers, or raising it yourself in less than ideal circumstances, is the easy solution. But it is the right one.

Life is pervaded with difficulty and challenges. Some of those challenges feel crushing and impossible to overcome. It's natural to seek ways to lighten the load or find an alternate route. But ending a human life should never be an option!

I am a woman. I have three daughters. I resent the message being thrust upon women and girls: that we must be rescued from the challenges of life. That we aren't capable of meeting difficult situations head on and dealing with them with strength and dignity. That our miraculous ability to bring forth life in this world is cheap and can be thrown aside like garbage.

We can value life *and* value women. These values are not mutually exclusive; in fact, they embrace each other.

In closing, I have this to say to the committee: There are co-sponsors of this bill who have qualms about this bill. There are Democrat members of this committee who question if this bill should be passed into law. I urge you each of you, if you have any hesitation about this bill, if you will not listen to the thousands and thousands of phone calls, letters, texts, emails, and now testimony that you have received over the past days and hours, at least listen to your conscience. Be men and women of character and integrity who will stand for what is right. Do not be swayed by Planned Parenthood lobbyists. Do not succumb to pressure from your party. If there is one issue that is worth standing up alone for, it is the lives of those who cannot stand up for themselves.

Please, *please*, vote ought not to pass.