

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Robert Wessels and I am a resident of Paris. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619."

For years the pro-choice argument has focused on making a big deal that it is a "fetus" and not a baby in the first trimester. We have been repeating this lie long enough that there are many that believe it. If you are one of those, I won't successfully convince you otherwise in my 3 minutes, but I will ask you, what has changed? Maine has had an abortion law that has made our pro-choice delegates happy enough. What happened? Why do we need to move beyond terminating a so-called "fetus" to now legalize terminating the life of what everybody must agree is an actual baby? LD 1619 includes any baby up until they are born. This is a radical and extreme bill, even for the most devout pro-choicer. This is clearly murder and there is no other way to look at it. To confirm this, I was researching and found a survey that an NPR article published. I also found a separate survey that was done by Archbalt.org...both surveys came to the same conclusion. Both surveys found that almost 70% of the people surveyed are against abortions being done outside of the first trimester. This is not a democrat issue, this is not a republican issue. Do not make the mistake of "voting along party lines." This is quite literally a life and death issue, and this survey is showing that the American people do not support state-sanctioned murder in the United States. You don't need to mess with the current law, so please don't.

One last reason to vote down LD 1619 is because this is a slippery slope. As proven by your desire to go from 1st trimester to "anytime"...the desire for more will never end. Once this is approved, what is next? Will we follow Canada into doctor assisted suicides? Will we follow previous civilizations into state-sanctioned euthanasia of our elderly? Or our disabled? Once you gain a numbness to death and start devaluing human life, these are not far-fetched outcomes. Maybe you and I will be elderly by the time that euthanasia starts...it's not unrealistic.

I plead with each of you, you have an amazing opportunity to stop the slippery slope now!

Please **vote ought not to pass**.

For Maine,
Robert Wessels

<https://www.npr.org/2023/04/26/1171863775/poll-americans-want-abortion-restrictions-but-not-as-far-as-red-states-are-going>

<https://www.archbalt.org/poll-big-majorities-of-democrats-young-people-reject-late-term-abortion/?print=print>