

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Judiciary Committee:

My name is Bridget Smarr and I am a resident of Houlton, Maine. I am here to express my opposition to the proposed bill LD 1619: “An Act to Improve Maine’s Reproductive Privacy Laws.”

I believe there is a lot of deception and confusion surrounding this abortion debate. And the answers are not going to be found during a public hearing full of two minute speeches. However, I strongly encourage everyone listening to me right now to ask their own questions and do their own research about how abortions are done and why the abortion industry has become what it is today. As we know, LD 1619 allows for a woman to get an abortion up until the point of birth for non-medical reasons. This is vague, and opens the door further for unthinkable things to be done under the law. This is an extreme bill that is not necessary. What will it accomplish? It will result in the ending of many lives that are just beginning to be experienced. Lives of babies that have a heartbeat, and that move their arms and legs and fingers. Babies that can suck their thumbs, and that are developing at insanely fast rates. Babies at this stage of a pregnancy are viable—which in plain terms is—they can live outside the womb. How then, does a 40 week old fetus differ from a newborn? Location.

Whether or not babies can feel pain has long been debated. However, the science commonly points to the fact that babies can feel pain beyond 20-24 weeks of pregnancy. That is the stage of pregnancy we are talking about here. I hope we can at least all agree that it is inhumane to put an innocent being through this pain for the sake of “ending a pregnancy.” For what cause are these lives ended? Convenience? Women’s rights? Future plans? Emotions? Scientific experimentation? Population control? Fewer single mothers? Society has come up with many reasons, but I am sorry; they will not convince me. And they should not convince you either. I ask you: please oppose this bill.