

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Danika Turcotte and I live in the town of Woolwich. I first want to say thank you for what you do, and for serving the people of Maine. I am here today to testify in opposition to the bill LD1619.

I do not believe there is any logical, let alone moral, reason for Maine to legalize and allow 3rd trimester abortions. If there is a situation that arises in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy where it would be best for the mother to not be pregnant anymore and her baby is past viability, that baby could be safely delivered and given the appropriate medical intervention to give them the best chance at a healthy, full life – in fact, a baby born at 22 weeks was recently released from Maine Medical Center and is doing well. In the case where the mother feels she cannot care for the baby as needed, then that baby could be placed for adoption with a loving family. My husband and I have been unable to have children for the past 6 years, however we would be very open to adoption if it wasn't for the extreme price tag. This leads me to a few statistics I would like to share with you – according to American Adoptions, it is estimated that around 2 million couples are currently waiting to adopt in the United States – which means there as many as 36 families waiting for every one child that is placed for adoption. There are so many families who would be overjoyed to welcome a child into their family through adoption, even more than the 2 million currently waiting... if it wasn't for the high price of adoption. According to an online source, an adoption through an adoption agency typically costs between \$30,000-\$60,000, and an independent adoption costs between \$25,000-\$45,000.

The real discussion I believe we need to have here is about what kind of reform we need in our State so that way adoption is a realistic and obtainable option for not only Maine families, but also an option that pregnant mothers feel confident deciding for their unborn baby. In the meantime, choosing to end the lives of immeasurably valuable children is not the solution. We need to fight for the next generation of Mainers, not take their lives from them.

I urge you, please, think this through and vote “ought not to pass” on bill LD1619. The future of Maine depends on it.