

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

My name is Kelly Coffin from Clinton. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1619.

Maine recently made National news for sending a baby girl home from the Maine Medical NICU. The youngest ever born in Maine. Her name is Winner and she was born at only 22 weeks (about 5 months) gestation. Maine's current law puts viability at 24-28 weeks (about 6 and a half months). This bill would remove even that restriction. The United States was one of only 7 countries that permitted abortion without restriction as to reason. Now that states are deciding I must ask why Maine would want to join China or North Korea? I find it objectionable to join the ranks of those who place so little value on life.

Dr. Anthony Levatino performed 1200 abortions before leaving the industry. He states that late term abortions are performed on a fully developed and viable baby and take 3-4 days to complete. It starts by injecting Digoxin into the baby who feels this pain. This stops the heart, and the baby dies. Now the cervix must be opened, which takes days. This poor woman is now carrying an expired baby until the cervix is dilated. She will deliver this dead baby at a clinic or a hotel room. If it cannot be delivered whole, it must be removed by dilation and evacuation in pieces making sure nothing is left behind to cause infection. He asserts there is a HIGH risk for hemorrhage, laceration to or perforation of the uterus, maternal death, or subsequent complications with future pregnancies.

There is just TOO MUCH RISK for women with a complete removal of restrictions. The promotion of this type of bill makes it look like it is for political reasons or about making money when women come to Maine from places that wisely don't offer late term options. Maine should remain Vacationland not become Abortionland.

Somewhere the line must be drawn that is NEVER crossed and this bill is far beyond that line. Please do the responsible thing for the safety of our sisters, daughters, granddaughters, friends and neighbors by REJECTING LD 16/ 9.