

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Mark Philbrick and I am a resident of Canaan, Maine., and I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619. You have been put in a place to be able to do the right thing and be on the right side of history. Over the ages, people in authority have made decisions that have either been heroic and life saving or resulted in great cruelty and killing of hundreds, thousands and even millions. I assume you have researched the common processes through which the unborn child is torn out of the womb and subsequently disposed of. Recently my first grandson was born. I had the privilege of holding him in my arms the day after he was born. If someone were to come into that hospital room and threaten to use a vacuum device to violently tear him out of my arms and end his life, or to latch on to him with some other instrument that would extract him from my protective grasp and terminate his existence, I guarantee you I would fight to my own death to protect him for such brutality, and I imagine each of you would do the same. Yet, we are contemplating passing laws in this country and in our beloved state that would make it easier and more convenient than ever to do just that to viable lives that are just inches from the arms of someone who could love them and nurture them, and for the sake of convenience to some, will make even more allowance for this savagery towards others, towards the most innocent of all among us. When my oldest son was in the womb and very possibly able to survive if born, the doctors met with us as the result of a test that had been run and recommended that we consider terminating the pregnancy since the test indicated that there was a high probability that he would be severely handicapped. We chose to protect his life. A few weeks later it was revealed to us that there had been a mistake on the blood test. We were horrified to think of the many instances in which decisions would have been made to end his existence. Our son Jordan is now in his twenties, he is a gifted builder, he is a loving husband and father to my two precious granddaughters! I wish I had the time to show you some pictures and video of them today! Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I beg you to do the right thing, and thwart this extreme bill in committee. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.