

Honorable Committee Members, I, Amy Loring, a Windham resident, am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619 (and all pro-Abortion bills).

I am mom to a baby in Heaven – and a miracle 2-year-old on earth. After 7 years of infertility, I can tell you with certainty: life is not a guarantee! Just take 2 seconds to feel your own heartbeat. And recognize that life is an undeserved gift – even if your conception was “unplanned” (which, honestly, is likely most of us)!

Women are competent, smart, powerful, fierce, even. But who has not been afraid, anxious, or made a regrettable decision when feeling overwhelmed or alone? However, women do NOT want to make decisions out of FEAR; we want to make decisions out of FREEDOM and COURAGE – to choose and do the good, the right, the best thing for us and our families!

Consider the following:

- 1) For 3 years, I lived with homeless, pregnant women and their babies, post-delivery. These moms achieved goals of going to school, getting a job, obtaining childcare, etc. Several said their doctor recommended Abortion, multiple times. Daphne’s told her to DEFINITELY get one, since her son would have Down Syndrome. Accepting that risk, she chose to deliver anyway, and he was born healthy with no disability at all!
- 2) Consider, also, my friend, L.C. – in and out of relationships in high school and beyond – who never wanted to have kids. She ended up experiencing the horror and tragedy of date rape and soon found herself to be pregnant. She also, carried her son, and says his life is one of the best things that has ever happened to her.

In March, Maine celebrated its “youngest premature baby” surviving at 22 weeks – an amazing medical feat – and yet, here we are looking to expand Abortion for babies who are even older than viability age. How can we say on the one hand that her life is a miracle – and others are not?

It especially makes NO SENSE when birth rates are declining, and our state population is only aging. We should not be determining when/whether life matters – nor should any doctor who is knowledgeable, yet fallible; and supposed to protect and care for patients. Do we want Maine to be among a handful of states and countries with policies that treat human life as discardable and replaceable – among places like North Korea? Should we not be pouring MORE state resources into VALUING and SUPPORTING the lives of mamas and babies – rather than working to further extinguish them?

I exhort you Maine citizens! Let us not look back and regret, but look forward to the future with hope!