

Testimony in Opposition of LD 1619 An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws

May 1, 2023

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer White of Gray, and I am here to voice my opposition to LD 1619. First, I would like to say that this Governor's bill is a huge disappointment to me and many across our state who heard Governor Mills televised political debates last October. She was asked if she would try to change the current abortion law in Maine and her response was that she would not change the current law. Many other Democrats who ran for office last year were asked similar questions about their stance on abortion and told their constituents that they supported the current abortion bill as it stood. This Governor's bill with many Democrat Co-Sponsors is a perfect example of bait and switch. Promises spoken to the people of Maine which turned out to be lies. This is one reason why so many people in our state do not trust politicians.

As someone who has worked in the early childhood field for almost thirty years, I am immensely troubled that our Governor and state legislators would think it's okay to perform an abortion with no limitations on the age of the fetus. Why would you remove "it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother"? Anyone who supports this bill is leaving the door wide open for this law to be misused. The majority of abortions that occur right now are sadly being used as a form of birth control from unwanted pregnancies. According to the Lozier Institute, in 2021 over 36% of women in Maine who reported having an abortion, this was their second, third, or fourth time having one. This is clearly being used in place of contraceptives. This is a barbaric choice that is torturous for any baby in utero to go through. By the seventeenth and eighteenth week after gestation, the fetus shows a clear response to pain in multiple studies that have been done.

We love our pets more than we love our unborn children. When we make a conscious decision to euthanize our beloved animals but instead torture our unborn children through abortion—there is something totally off balance in our world. We don't want to see our animals suffer but we are willing to make it easier for viable, full of life fetuses to brutally suffer—all in the name of what?

Progressive thinking?? How about we provide better accessibility and choices for contraceptives and not use abortion as birth control?

Human life is sacred—no matter how small and fragile. Abortion is painful, barbaric, and does not provide the dignity that every human life deserves. If this bill passes, there will be no baby carried in utero that is protected, that cannot be aborted, regardless of age and for whatever reason. This bill lacks any kind of human decency or compassion whatsoever. I pray that for all of you who have children or grandchildren, think back to cradling that beautiful tiny newborn in your arms for the first time. Then think of the pain that child would feel if they were in the womb, fully formed, nearing their date to be born, but instead painfully and brutally aborted. That is inconceivable. If you pass this bill, you will be responsible for that very tragedy happening to others.

Please vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1619. Using the lives of unborn children as political pawns is a terrible thing to do. Real birth control should not involve painful abortions. We can do better as a society by providing other means of contraceptives for both men and women.

Thank you,

Jennifer White
Gray, Maine