

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Ruth Rogers and I am a resident of Bangor. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1619: An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws.

Two people see the same pregnancy, but their realities can vastly differ. One believes in the creation of a new human being. While the other might say:

“Your life is a mess, you can't have a baby. You don't even know the father's last name. Nobody will love you if you have a kid. How can you afford a baby if you can't afford an abortion? The baby is severely handicapped. The baby will be born into poverty. You can't adopt out your own flesh and blood. You'll lose your scholarship. You're not ready to be parents.” And so on....

I believe that those who offer abortion are well intentioned and have a heart for people in difficult situations. But in the state of Maine, we must stop the practice of telling vulnerable women that, *“The best we can do is to take your money and kill your baby.”*

I believe that women are inherently strong and should not be told that they can't do something they're perfectly capable of doing. There are abundant resources available to assist parents in unplanned pregnancy without offering abortion.

Honorable Committee Members, I believe that you ~~are~~ can come up with brilliant solutions that don't terminate the life of a tiny maturing human being in the womb.

I urge you to use your position to increase support for pregnant women that does not include abortion by addressing all of their challenges, such as safe places for pregnant students to live and complete their education, chastity programs for youth, true resources centers where they don't charge for pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and baby/momma gift shops with diapers, maternity clothes, etc.

Please think about that for a second. Abortion businesses charge considerable fees for all of their services, while true pregnancy resource centers offer ALL of their services for free. Which one is truly helping women?

I urge you to judge justly. Please vote “ought not to pass” LD 1619.

I know you can do better for the citizens of Maine. Thank you.