

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Ian Munsell, a resident of Casco, and a lifelong resident of Maine. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I am here because I wish to speak up for those who can't. My wife and I recently learned that she is expecting. A few more weeks later we learned we were having a baby girl. We were overjoyed, but it wasn't until the first ultrasound that the news really sank in. At that moment I finally saw my daughter, she was hiccuping and moving around. We could hear her fast heartbeat and see her grasping hands. It was clear that her heartbeat and body were distinct from her mothers, and she is a separate human being that responds to her surroundings.

As of today Abigail is 14 weeks old. She is the size of a navel orange. At this age she can make faces, her genitals are formed, she is growing hair, and she is actively moving around and flexing her fingers and toes. Abi's organs are working and she can finally hear her mother and I talk to her. Whenever my wife and I tell her "I love you Abi", she can now be comforted and may even smile in response.

By passing LD 1619 we will be allowing the dismantling of children twice the age of our Abigail. In this era we use abortion almost like a form of contraception, but we must realize we are destroying a life with every single abortion. I know it's easy to pretend a fetus is not human, but biology says otherwise. The DNA of every embryo is unique, and is duplicating cells, requiring life. Even the word "fetus" in Latin means "offspring", "Fruit", and "childbearing". Therefore I implore the honorable members of the joint standing committee to take courage to protect those who can't protect themselves. Reject this overextending bill.

Thank you for your time.