

Since LD 1619 removes abortion restrictions, I'm addressing standard reasons for expanding this profit-driven industry of killing the inconvenient and voiceless: rape and incest, the mother's health, and empowering women – "my body, my choice".

Rape and incest count for less than half a percent nationally. Have we seriously discussed dis-incentivizing abuse of women, including not releasing violent criminals early? There would be no rape if surgical castration, life in prison, or the death penalty were standard.

Just like you wouldn't tell victims, "No justice, you were at the wrong place at the wrong time," it is not a solution to murder babies who are also at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Regarding the mother's health, good prenatal care essentially eliminates dangers to a woman's life. LD 1619 tacitly agrees, since "to preserve the life or health of the mother" has been removed.

No penalties for non-approved abortion providers shows that abortion is more about generating maximum profits without restrictions than about women's health. Even the pro-abortion American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists warns against unlicensed providers.

Fetal research at the University of Pittsburgh verifies that full-term aborted babies born alive command a nice price on the organs market.

So, what about empowering women when 96% of abortions are elective?

Choices alone don't automatically empower anyone. Bad choices always **disempower**.

It is **disempowering** not to prevent pregnancy in the first place.

It **disempowers** not to know the physical, financial, and social supports available for keeping babies or giving them for adoption.

It is **disempowering** to participate in killing babies in horrifying, torturous ways. Read women's regret stories at silentnomoreawareness.org.

It is **disempowering** that non-licensed abortion providers can make money off women's fear, without repercussions.

It **disempowers** women to deny reality about "my body, my choice" when the baby is clearly *not* her body. Her goals may be inhibited, but *she* created this defenseless, voiceless life, and it's not even threatening her life. No one has the right to murder someone whose mere existence inhibits one's goals.

What is **empowering** is learning effective defense against physically stronger males. And knowing that society will hold them accountable.

Choosing life and living without shame is **empowering**. Choosing life is costly, yes. But more costly is regret, denial, and lies.

Please reject LD 1619.

Empower women by charging criminals appropriately, and protect women from a profit-driven culture of death based on murdering those with no defenses and no voice.

Testimony of Anne Weston, Owls Head