

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Glenn Chalkley, and I am a resident of Corinth. My wife and I are parents of six children – one of whom is adopted and one we lost to miscarriage. We are long-time supporters of Pregnancy Resource Centers in the states where we have lived.

I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619. I respectfully encourage you in the strongest of terms to reject this proposed legislation.

As you each are under oath for a term to administrate matters wisely and well for the public good, I must ask why are you even considering LD 1619: “An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws?” If a lie is a falsehood with an intention to deceive, then the euphemistic title words “improve,” “reproductive” are really fitting and cold-hearted. This bill changes the standard for when an abortion may be performed, removes the criminal penalties for performing an abortion after viability when it was not necessary, and hides information about specific circumstances precipitating the abortion.

My fellow Mainers: What public good is served by enabling the Governor's proposal to abort viable unborn Maine children? The 10-year average ending in 2020 according to Maine CDC for abortions in Maine is 1,961 lives. This represents nearly a 300 percent increase of averaged annual deaths to date from COVID-19, which Governor Mills shut down the state over, and compares to two-thirds of the population of the town I live in. What would you do if so many residents of a Maine town were slaughtered year-over-year? Would you consider it ok? Normal? I know you wouldn't. Esteemed lawmakers of Maine, we need fewer abortions not more.

I am confident that some of your consciences have already confirmed that this bill is destructive, morally corrosive and should be opposed. Thank you and please act on your conviction.

For others who are determined to support this bill when there is nothing about the public good in this bill – nor any good whatsoever – please take warning in all sincerity and earnestness. I believe that the voices of these children are heard, and will be heard, by the heavenly Authority above you. If your souls are not moved on behalf of Maine's unborn – viable – children, what could you possibly say when you are called to account? “Have mercy?” And what if the words you hear are, “As you have measured, so it will be measured to you.”

Most respectfully, I encourage you in the strongest of terms to change your minds and reject this bill.

Thank you.