

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Kim Smith, and I am a resident of New Sharon. I am here to testify in opposition to LD1619.

I am the mother of one son. His start in life was less than ideal. I was 24 weeks into my pregnancy when I developed HELLP syndrome, also known as Toxemia. My case was sudden and severe. I live in rural central Maine where my son could not have survived outside of my womb. The doctor didn't think I would live long enough to get to Portland where the baby would stand a chance of survival. We were told that terminating the pregnancy was the best option, quite a dilemma to be faced with. According to witnesses I never hesitated and told the doctor that "we had to try". I went to Portland in an ambulance, my doctor alongside instructing the driver to go as fast as possible making it from Farmington to Portland in record time! Mine and that baby boy's lives mattered!

I would be lying if I told you, it was smooth sailing from there on. I was in MMC for 2 full weeks, and I had a long road to be fully recovered. My son was there for 6 months. He was discharged with a feeding port in his belly and a computerized pump to feed him with. His progress was slow and he did have setbacks, but nobody would guess it now! He had a feeding tube until he was 5 years old! Oh, how I longed to hear the words, "Mom, I'm hungry!". Now, I hear them so often the opposite is true!

My son is now 20 years old! friends! Growing up he was this state house. He went to Washington Focus. He went was on the dairy quiz bowl the team was number one his class A license, a citizen of this state!



He likes the ladies, and has a network of good part of 4-H, and was a Page for a day here at Washington DC as part of Citizenship to the Big E on the public speaking team. He team. He was number 3 in New England and and went on to Louisville Kentucky! Now he has full-time job, and is a responsible tax paying

The reason I'm sharing this with you is to hopefully show you that when babies are born as early as mine, just on the cusp of viability, they can grow into responsible citizens. The decision to give my son life is one I would do over again, even at great risk to myself.

This bill that is being proposed is nothing short of murder! I ask you to please think carefully before you vote on this bill. Look carefully at all the facts! These are future citizens! They deserve to be protected! Please vote ought not to pass.