

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Virginia Dow and I am a Hampden resident.

I oppose LD 1619 because I have held babies born before the point of viability, both as a mother to them and as a photographer for Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep. This non-profit organization provides heirloom portrait sessions to families of pregnancy and early infant loss. I have looked into those babies faces, counted their fingers and toes and seen firsthand the evidence of human life before birth. This is a picture of Larson and Emmett Dow, my identical twins born September 19, 2016. They were 18 weeks 3 days gestation.



Current Maine laws already allow for abortions up to the point of viability and abortions after the point of viability to save the life of the mother. LD 1619 is an unnecessary change that removes specified conditions of abortions. And then further removing criminal penalties to unlicensed individuals performing abortions. This allows for more unnecessary loss of life by increasing potential maternal death, along with infant death. Mainers deserve better.

Thank you for your time.