

Senator Carney, representative Moonen, members of the committee,

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the committee,

My name is Mara Seeley and I live in Glenburn. I am here because I am opposed to bill LD 1619. When you look at me do you see a lack of quality in my life, do you see my cyclic vomiting syndrome? Can you tell that I'm often in bed for days without moving? Does that take away from the value of my life? If I had been born in this day and age, my mother would have received a lot of pressure to abort me because of my extreme life altering diagnoses. Was the answer to my hard life, not letting me live at all? Abortion is not an act of compassion or necessity. It is a choice made by a woman and her doctors out of fear of the future. If a woman's life is in danger from her pregnancy her doctors will advise abortion, but if she wants to save the baby, they will try to save them both. We need to stop pressuring abortion and offer other choices such as adoption or life affirming support.

Abortion up until birth is not the answer. I work with a non profit called Adoption Finder, we provide life affirming services to moms and moms-to-be. We help over a hundred women every year and out of those women only four to five of them choose adoption and the rest raise their babies after discovering they have help from us. How about instead of offering abortions, we offer help. We tell these women they can have their babies. Did you know that 77% of women who take the abortion pill regret it after? According to Live Action 75% of abortion clients have a low income and 60% of women who have an abortion already had at least one live birth. What does that say to you? To me, it says that women are scared they cannot afford or care for another baby. That doesn't mean those babies aren't worthy of a chance at life. According to Adoption Network there are between one and two million couples waiting to adopt. Can we give these babies a chance to live and these couples a chance to parent. Instead of giving abortions we offer life affirming care and adoption plans to these women.