

April 28, 2023

RE: Testimony in Opposition of LD1619

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

My name is Carla Caron, and I am a resident of Winslow. I am here to testify in opposition to LD1619.

My family has experienced the devastating results of an abortion. Not only have I lost a grandchild, I nearly lost my daughter. A month and a half after having an abortion, my daughter, believing it was her menstrual cycle, developed excruciating pain and severe bleeding. She was rushed to the hospital by ambulance and underwent a procedure to remove the tissue from an incomplete abortion.

The truth is, a baby in utero is a living human being. From 24-40 weeks a child is viable, can hiccup and respond to touch and sound. It is reprehensible to me to think that anyone could thoughtfully take the life of this unborn child.

Many times these decisions are being made under duress. Fear is a motivating factor in the choice to terminate a pregnancy. What is the quickest and easiest way out of this situation? Days, months, and years later, remorse will come. Accountability will befall these beautiful women. All human life is valuable. Whether we agree with the choices of others or not, this discussion is not about "my body, my choice." At 24-40 weeks gestation, this is about the life of a tiny and beautiful human being.

State-of-the-art medical advances now enable, in some cases, lifesaving intervention for both mother and baby in utero. Sometimes this intervention is covered under insurance. Why would such an effort be made to bring these advancements to fruition if a child is just a mass of tissue until delivered? How can one say that a baby that responds by kicking or turning to your reading, singing, or rubbing your belly is not alive? I've used my pregnant belly as a table for my tea cup and saucer and my unborn daughter kicked the saucer and it fell off.

As members of the governing authority over the people of Maine, you are responsible for the bills introduced and made into law. What you allow to be voted on and made into law you become accountable to and for. It no longer rests solely on the individuals of our state and the choices they make, but upon the lawmakers who have brought the bill forward and passed these laws and made them acceptable.

Please vote ought not to pass.