

Testimony of Judy Icenogle

In opposition to "An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws"--- LD 1619

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Judy Icenogle, from Winslow, ME. I come before you today to speak in opposition to LD 1619.

In the year 2020, only 1% of abortions in the United States were performed at more than 21 weeks gestational age. Fetal anomaly or life endangerment should be the only reasons such abortions are considered and current Maine law already allows for those two medical necessities making it totally gratuitous to change Maine's reproductive laws. Making a law more permissive in its scope does not make it a better law.

I am passionately pro-life and have prayed quietly and respectfully for many years, across the street from the abortion facility on Gabriel Drive in Augusta. As recently as March 16th an Augusta Emergency Vehicle with paramedics aboard was called to the Maine Family Planning facility to transport a client in need of additional medical care. As the paramedics left, a very worried friend or family member followed closely behind the paramedics' vehicle. It was a good reminder of the inherent danger of abortion, especially second and third trimester abortions.

Late-term abortion places women at greater risk of surgical complications, subsequent pre-term birth, and mental health problems, while simultaneously ending the life of an unborn child, a child capable of living outside the mother's womb.

Another concern I have is "the removal of criminal penalties" as specified in LD 1619, which would allow unlicensed persons to perform an abortion after viability of the fetus, when it was not necessary for the preservation of the life or health of the mother, to go unpunished, just as is happening in cities all across our country where crimes are not being prosecuted

Please vote NO on all three abortion bills (LD 1619, LD 1343 and LD 776).

Thank you!