

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Misty Gendron and I am a resident of Lisbon Falls. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

My son asked me to share his story. I had a challenging pregnancy and my son wasn't getting the nutrients and oxygen he needed to grow at the rate that the doctors would have liked. After some testing and observation, I was given a list of complications that he MIGHT face and I was offered the option to terminate the pregnancy. I declined and my son was born a micro-preemie at 30 weeks, but at the size and developmental stage of 24 weeks. He was under ONE pound for his first weeks of life. While in the NICU, my son recognized the sound of my voice! His heart rate would increase and he would squirm until I picked him up. He also learned to recognize the voice of his nurse and would squeeze my finger as if begging me not to put him down. He would cry every time he had to have blood drawn for testing, and he would flinch at the touch of cold fingers. He was fully human, capable of living, learning and feeling. He is 16 now and has had only a couple of struggles from the mile long list I was given from professionals who could only guess what his future might hold. When asked what he would say if he could speak up for babies without voices, he said this, "It's a no-brainer... I would rather be alive and have some struggles than be dead."

Abortion at ANY time is too extreme for Maine, but this bill that would allow for babies to be killed who COULD survive outside the womb, is simply immoral. Our current law ALREADY COVERS medical necessity and Maine does not need or want this extreme bill. Please oppose this bill. Thank you.

Misty Gendron  
Lisbon Falls, Maine