



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
MAINE RELAY 711

Richard T. Bradstreet

44 Harmony Lane
Vassalboro, ME 04989
Dick.Bradstreet@legislature.maine.gov
Cell: (207) 861-1657

May 1, 2023

RE: LD 1619

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, I'm Representative Dick Bradstreet from House District 61, which is comprised of my home town of Vassalboro and most of Sidney. I'm here today in strong opposition to LD 1619, *An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws*.

You no doubt have heard a lot about why so many Mainers are opposed to this bill, so I won't reiterate those points in my testimony today. What I would like to do is respectfully remind you of the history that has caused this bill to be before the Legislature and your committee. During this past gubernatorial election, our current Chief Executive repeatedly stated that she saw no reason to alter what is the status quo on abortions – essentially limiting most abortions to the period prior to viability. I believe that stance was a significant reason she was re-elected – most voters seemed willing to accept the status quo. So why are we here today?

The premise for this bill entailed a situation cited by the Governor's having heard the story of a pregnant mother whose baby in the womb was suffering from a fatal fetal abnormality, and that she could not find a doctor in Maine who would perform an abortion. The narrative is that such an action would be illegal here in Maine, and the woman was forced to go to another state to get an abortion. This bill was then promulgated as being necessary so that no other woman would be forced to leave Maine for an abortion when faced with a similar tragic situation. And yet, our own Attorney General has stipulated that an abortion in Maine under these circumstances would NOT be illegal! So the premise for this bill has been eradicated. The legal opinion rendered by Maine's Attorney General belies the rationale for LD 1619, and it should be overwhelmingly defeated.

I also would like to add that many people I have talked with were led to believe that there are reasonable protections for viable preborn babies in the bill, but as we all know, that is simply not the case. The procedures that would be allowed under LD 1619 are beneath what a civilized society should tolerate, but that is the situation we will have should LD 1619 become law. Maine has always prided itself as a state that does not adhere to extremes. This bill is extreme, there's no question about it. In light of that, please realize that those of you who consider yourselves pro-choice will continue to be so even if you vote against this bill. You will just not be an extremist. I strongly urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS. Thank you.