

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

My name is Claire McCallion and I am a resident of Lisbon. I am writing to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

As a mother, I am deeply opposed to this extreme abortion bill. Having given birth to three children, I cannot imagine the horror of aborting a full term baby whose life would be viable outside the womb.

But beyond being a mother, this bill hits harder and more deeply as the sister of an aborted baby. At the age of 18 my mother found herself unexpectedly pregnant and unmarried. She had a saline abortion at 20 weeks gestation. I have grown up knowing the horror of abortion and the lasting effect that it has on women and families. As an adult, my mother has shared her experience with me, and it is devastating. You will hear her story today, you do not need to hear it from me. Suffice it to say, the horror of giving birth to a child killed in the womb is something that never leaves a woman, something she can never remove from her body or her mind, something that will devastate her and her future children. This bill would open the doors to this kind of heartbreak and trauma for any woman choosing a late term abortion.

We live in a time in which our schools, medical centers, and institutions claim to be "trauma informed". We know how deeply trauma affects families for generations to come. We teach our children explicit ways to avoid abuse, neglect, and predation, because we know that once trauma is inflicted, it cannot be undone.

And yet, with the passing of LD 1619 Maine would be legalizing the perpetration of horrific trauma on women far and wide. This is unacceptable. Please, for the sake of this generation, and generations to come, be truly trauma informed and to stop the trauma of LD 1619 before it can happen.

Thank you for your time,  
Claire McCallion

1619