

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is William Siemerling, and I am a resident of Dover Foxcroft. I am here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

Currently the Maine Constitution allows for the killing of innocent children up to 20 weeks. My wife and I had triplets born at 26 weeks, which means based on the current law, only a mere 6 weeks prior to their birth we could have legally killed them. They had functioning hearts, could feel pain, and could suck their thumb at 20 weeks. LD 1619 allows the murder of children up to the point of birth. This means a woman has up to 40 weeks to decide to kill her child. Some might view this as premeditated murder. To expand access to abortion up to the point of birth is inconceivable. As a civilized society we should be defending the weakest among us, such as the unborn. Instead, we try to justify the ability to murder them. During the campaign in 2022, Democrats were content with the law as it was. In January, they announced “they would propose a narrow expansion to address specific instances of tragic fetal disease and debilitation”. They have since moved the goalpost again, **now proposing abortion on demand, with no limitations to the point of birth.**

A woman who lived a holy life and was way more suited to voice her thoughts about abortion, gave a speech at the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994. This is her belief regarding abortion:

“But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love, and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even His life to love us. So, the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts.

By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems. And, by abortion, that father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. The father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”

Saint Mother Teresa spoke those words in 1994, they were as true then as they are now. I am far from perfect, a sinner who tries to work every day to be a better person. I am nowhere near as eloquent as Saint Teresa to successfully render the fact that God made us in his image, and he knew us at the moment of conception. In a moral society abortion would be viewed as the murder of an innocent.

In closing, we should learn to love more and hate less even when it is hard, especially when it is hard. Please oppose LD 1619 and maybe together we can save lives. Thank you.