

Rep. Kuhn,
Senator Carney, Senator Talbot Ross, Senator Haggan and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Ruth Rogers and I am a resident of Bangor. I am testifying in support of the following six bills:

LD 253 – An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services

LD 682 – An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions

LD 886 – An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions

LD 887 – An Act to Make Manufacturers Responsible for Proper Disposal of Abortion Drugs and Require a Health Care Provider to be Physically Present During a Chemical

LD 1007 – An Act to Update the State’s Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion

LD 1154 – An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice

I would like to propose an exercise in walking you back to your earliest memories of childhood. Although you may not recall any memories at age one or two, I would wager that you believe you existed. Walking back further, do you believe that it was you being born when your mother went into labor? Was it still you prior to delivery, but you only needed time and nutrition while you nested comfortably in your mother’s womb?

At SEVEN WEEKS in the womb, although you were the size of a coffee bean, your eyes, nose, mouth and ears were starting to look more defined and your arms and legs were more defined. The main parts of the eye that allow you to see – the cornea, iris, pupil, lens, and retina – were almost fully formed just a few weeks later.¹

Every week, you were rapidly developing. EACH WEEK of pregnancy marks *significant* changes, starting from fertilization – through the formation of major organs – and culminating in the growth and maturation of the fetus until birth.²

I hope you would agree that there was no magical moment that altered the possibility of you developing from a fetus into a puppy, a cantaloupe or a human being. You were a human being from the moment of conception, requiring time and nutrition to develop.

Honorable Committee Members, I believe that you are can come up with brilliant solutions that don’t terminate the life of a tiny maturing human being in the womb.

I urge you to use your position to thoughtfully consider and support each of these bills.

I know you can do better for the citizens of Maine. Thank you.

¹https://www.babycenter.com/pregnancy/your-baby/fetal-development-week-by-week_10406730

²Ai, Google search for fetal development