

To the Honorable Members of the Vermont State Legislature:

I am writing on behalf of my daughters, their future daughters and all the generations of women to come that need and demand the protection of their right to have control over their body.

A woman's right of **CHOICE** should be written and guaranteed under Vermont's laws. In this time of religious righteousness and the draconian reproductive laws that are running rampant throughout the country we can not take for granted that the free will of the people of Vermont will always include a woman's right to choose what is best for her and her family.

Why am I pro-Choice? Mine is a personal story that begins in the early part of the 20th century. My great grandmother, Hannah, a young, beautiful and intelligent woman, was married via arranged marriage to a man that was not her equal in age or intellect. She was always pregnant.

She wanted a better life for herself and her children. There was a chance for her to make a change and start a new life but before she could leave she was pregnant yet again. Desperate, she sought the only option open to her, the back alley abortion.

Hannah died a painful death from septicemia and left behind 5 children. My grandmother Gertie, perhaps 11 or 12 years old at the time tried to take care of her siblings but family services removed the youngest children and placed them in orphanages and foster homes. One brother died in foster care. It would be years before she would be reunited with her other siblings.

Fast forward to the mid 1990's. I'm a stay at home mom of two pre-school age children, with a self-employed husband. We are a household that always was struggling for money. There is now light at the end of the tunnel, a chance to restart my career and my life. I desperately NEED to have my life back. My father is dying from pancreatic cancer. I find out I'm pregnant!!!! I don't want to go through all of this again. I'm not emotionally there, financially there or even physically there.

Much emotional discussion ensues between my husband and myself as to what will be the best for us— that's the way it's supposed to be. He's supportive. I make the appointment with my doctor to end the pregnancy.

Then, I changed my mind.

I could, it was *MY* choice.

The right to choose is just that, a *CHOICE* to make that is **PRIVATE, SAFE** and **LAWFUL**. It is a deeply personal matter and it can go either way. To have no options imprisons a woman in her biology. Desperation only leads to bad options and outcomes. Why would we want that to be the legacy we leave to our daughters?

Sincerely,

Alyssa Mohl
Brandon, VT