

## **In Opposition Of H.57**

**February 6, 2019**

**Chelsea E. Magwire**

Good afternoon,

My name is Chelsea Magwire from West Topsham, Orange County, and I am in strong opposition of H.57, "An act relating to preserving the right to abortion."

This bill implies that abortion is merely the termination of a pregnancy and that it is safe and reasonable at any point, even to be used for contraception. As much as this puts women at risk for things like Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, which can lead to ectopic pregnancy and even infertility, from multiple abortions, why would this allow for abortion in the third trimester? Many people who I've spoken with who are in favor of this bill believe that abortion in the third trimester is always medically necessary and that women never choose to terminate their pregnancy after the first, maybe the second, trimester. According to Everyday Feminism, an online magazine, only just over 1% of abortions occur in the third trimester. They do admit that several of these are due to the woman not knowing she was pregnant.

Now, what happens if a baby is born alive? In the state of Pennsylvania, they would merely keep the child warm and comfortable and wait for it to pass away. The lack of restriction this

bill would provide would allow for that, which is absolutely not within the scope of one's medical license, and so much more. The state would not be able to investigate questionable abortion practices, which means women, and living infants outside the womb, could be injured or dying and there would be no justice.

As the mother of three children I'll never meet on this side of eternity, I am not here to shame women who have had an abortion. I can only imagine how painful a decision that must have been. Instead, I am here to speak for those who can't speak for themselves. I would suggest that we re-define what a late-term abortion really is. If the mother's life is at risk, it is not abortion to terminate that pregnancy, because killing the fetus is not the primary goal, saving the mother is. If the fetus is already dead, let's not call removing the fetus an abortion, because the goal is not to kill the child, it's to keep the mother from developing sepsis or another infection, and to spare her the pain of carrying a child she knows will be still-born. This will not only remove a hurtful stigma from those mothers, but it will make it clear to everyone what is actually happening. The language in our legislation is important.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me this opportunity to express why I am in opposition of H.57, "A bill relating to the right to abortion."