

J. Tucker
Jamie Roorda
Bill H.57
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My name is Jamie Roorda, I reside in Ferrisburgh with my husband and our son. I am devastated at the circumstances and situations a woman must encounter to lead her to a place where an abortion, specifically a late-term abortion is considered her best option. We can do better than this. We must.

We know life begins at conception, and that the fetus in its earliest stage as a zygote contains unique characteristics unlike any other person on this earth. It's genetic composition is not it's mothers, it is it's own. We know a baby is viable outside the woman between 23/24 weeks gestation. We know they feel pain. This is undeniable evidence of the life of a fetus. This aside, who are you and I to determine who has value and who does not? How about expanding access to birth control, better educating our youth on the life that can result from unprotected sex, and when an unplanned pregnancy does occur, walking alongside that woman and her baby to support them through birth and beyond. The overwhelming majority of abortions are performed for healthy women, terminating healthy babies (1), so please don't soothe your conscience assuming it's for the baby who won't live to see it's mother or have zero quality of life. It is unsettling that we are here today to codify a law put into place over 40 years ago when scientific evidence has far surpassed that original ruling. We scream her body, her choice, leave these matters to a woman and her doctor, but I can't stop thinking about the baby who doesn't get a chance to scream - being torn limb by limb or injected with a lethal substance at the hands of our dehumanizing government.

See these additional statistics:

- 61% of Americans say abortion should be illegal after the fetal heartbeat has begun,(2)which occurs in the first month of pregnancy.
- 86% of Americans say abortion should be illegal after the first 6 months of pregnancy.[3]
- Only 6% -17% of Americans (depending on how the question is asked and by whom) believe abortion should be legal at any time, in all circumstances.[4]

I oppose H.57, please vote no.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue,

Jamie Roorda

Sources:

[1] Lawrence B. Finer et al., 113-14. This survey shows women have abortions for the following reasons:

- 25% "not ready for a(nother) child/timing is wrong"
- 23% "can't afford a baby now"
- 19% "have completed my childbearing/have other people depending on me/children are grown"
- 8% "don't want to be a single mother/am having relationship problems"
- 7% "don't feel mature enough to raise a(nother) child/feel too young"
- 6% "other" (this category had no further explanation)
- 4% "would interfere with education or career plans"
- 4% "physical problem with my health"
- 3% "possible problems affecting the health of the fetus"
- -0.5% "husband or partner wants me to have an abortion"
- -0.5% "parents want me to have an abortion"
- -0.5% "don't want people to know I had sex or got pregnant"
- -0.5% "was a victim of rape"

[2] Zogby International Poll, April 15-17, 2004.

[3] Humphrey Taylor, "The Harris Poll #18," Harris Interactive, Inc., March 3, 2005.

[4] A recent Marist Poll/Knights of Columbus survey found that only 6% of Americans believe "abortion should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy." See "Abortion in America," Marist Poll/Knights of Columbus, July 2009, accessed March 16, 2011, <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/news/releases/detail/548612.html>. Another survey found that 17% believe "abortion should be legal in all cases. See "Religion and the Issues: Results from the 2010 Annual Religion and Public Life Survey," Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, September 17, 2010 (17% believe "abortion should be legal in all cases"), accessed March 16, 2011, http://pewforum.org/uploadedFiles/Top-ics/Issues/Politics_and_Elections/immigration-en-vironment-views-fullreport.pdf.

