

Members of the Vermont House Committee. I am Jennifer Maier from Manchester. A second generation Vermonter raising up a family of third generation Vermonters.

Tomorrow, February 7, 2019, one of my five daughters will celebrate her 7th birthday. Over the last few days, there has been great excitement in our home planning and preparing for her birthday celebration, just as there was great excitement the day she presented herself to her six siblings. The excitement was not because she became a baby that day in 2012, rather because she was already part of our family while she grew inside my warm, safe womb. We heard her heartbeat. We watched her do flipflops. She responded to the little voices of brothers and sisters singing and to little elbows bumping into the safe place she nestled in, the place where babies live before they make their appearance on the most special day ever... their birthday.

Nothing comes from nothing. Life begets life. The cells forming a heart, head, eyes, hands, legs, feet and fingers is life at its most vibrant time. The changes taking place, as the baby grows in the womb, are exponential to any other time in a person's life.

*As a representative of the people from your districts, you are not supposed to decide for us, but rather you are supposed to represent us. All of us. The ones who agree with you, the ones who disagree with you and the ones who are growing in the womb. There are currently, hundreds of babies living in wombs all over your districts. There will be at any given point hundreds of babies in VT wombs for the rest of time....Are you willing to let H.57 deny a whole group of people, who are expectantly waiting for the most important day... Their birth date? **No to H.57!***

And Happy birthday to my sweet Luisa Faith!

Respectfully,

Jennifer Maier

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