To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing regarding the bill Vermont H.57 that seeks to strip away any legal rights for the pre born.

I am urging you all to vote against this bill for a number of reasons.

It is beyond my comprehension that we would pass a bill that does not recognize the fact of a human child in the womb.

I do understand that many think a woman's right to make a decision should take precedent over the baby's life. But all lives should matter. If as a society we ignore the vulnerable, what are we becoming? Certainly, we all recognize the need to protect an infant, and most of us smile around babies, cherishing their innocence. How then can we believe that a baby in the womb at 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 months is without the rights of a human being?

A long time ago, we believed that an embryo and a fetus were just a clump of cells. Clearly, science has taken us to a point of understanding how early on in a pregnancy we have a recognizable human being. Indeed, children born as early as 24 weeks now have a chance of living outside the womb. Science and logic may well lead us to a recognition that we couldn't have had decades ago.

I was adopted in 1963 and might not exist today if laws like Vermont H.57 were in existence. That in and of itself may not speak well to why this law should be voted down, but it is a piece of it.

Please listen to the sound of a baby's heartbeat in the womb. Consider the ultrasound pictures of little ones in the womb. These are human beings not clumps of cells. It is our duty as a society to protect the most vulnerable.

Thank you for your time.

Please consider carefully and vote against this dehumanizing bill.

Sincerely, Judith Dickerman-Nelson Townshend, Vermont (802)365-4459