

Dear House Committee on Human Services,

While I am opposed to abortion of any kind, with a few exceptions, I shudder at the ramifications of part of bill H. 57 “A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under Vermont law.”

I know that there are well-meaning and loving people on both sides of this debate. I am confident that the people who celebrated the legislation that passed in NY were not celebrating the death of children, but what they view as protecting women. But in protecting women’s rights we are choosing to put power in the hands of any woman to murder. People do not like thinking of abortion as murder, but when a doctor rips a child piece by piece from the womb it simply is murder. Having little to no restrictions at all seems to go counter to everything in our culture as well. We have regulations for so many things, why not this as well?

A viable baby at 26 weeks or even 40 weeks could be killed under the bill with absolutely no protection from anyone. We all like to think that people who are making decisions to have an abortion are not going to do a late term abortion unless it is absolutely necessary, but that simply isn’t always true. I am acutely aware mothers in these situations cannot be judged by those who have not walked in their shoes, but should there really be no regulations that attempt to save the baby in cases where it is more related to inconvenience? Are we supporting women when they need it most? Aren’t there steps we should be taking before a baby is aborted to support these women? Studies have shown there is a very high risk of women having more physical and emotional problems after an abortion and I am not sure we as a society are helping women through the process of making and coping with their choice.

Babies induced to save theirs or their mother’s lives are being placed in NICUs across our country at 25-26 weeks gestation and live full healthy lives. Why not perform a c-section on late-term abortion patients and give the babies a chance at life? People literally wait years to adopt babies in Vermont. Shouldn’t we at least have some legal provisions to support the most helpless? If H. 57 is passed we will live in a state where an endangered species, like the spotted turtle, has more protection under VT law than a full-term healthy baby in utero.

We must not forget that this legislation would be used widely to determine the rights of babies who are assault victims as well? Under this bill H. 57 “A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under Vermont law.”

In an effort to respect your time, I am trying to be brief. Please, I urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,

Laurie Yager