

## TESTIMONY on H.57

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My aunt was born in the early 1940s with a rare disease that caused every joint in her body to be bent. Her body was not normal at all. Her parents knew she would be born this way, because they had already lost a stillborn baby who also had this disease and, having carrying 3 normal babies, my grandmother's doctors knew this developing baby was also deformed. But Aunty Carol was born and survived for many years longer than the doctors expected and grew up to be a hard worker, a beautiful pianist (despite her bent fingers) and she had a deep love for people, especially me, and then her husband who had been born with spina bifida. She had an incredible positive impact on the people who were fortunate enough to know her. Today, she would be an easy target for abortion. Doctors and others would likely pressure her mother to abort the baby. Her daddy (as she always called him) might have had no say.

There are so many people whose value has never been realized, their lives stricken as a result of fear and egocentric decision-making. My daughter is a student athlete at NVU-Lyndon. One of her teammates who was born at six months told her: I can't believe babies are aborted when they are three months older than I was.

Every health care professional who has ever been involved in the birth process knows that they are taking care of two patients. This bill will allow women, at their weakest point, to make terrible, horrifying, life-altering choices for themselves, and declare death for their child. We cannot be responsible for allowing that. We are better than that. Let's pass a bill and set up grants to assist with adoptions. We should be personally supporting those organizations who come alongside scared moms and dads and teach them how to be good parents. Don't give them a barracuda; teach them to fish.

But, please, do not support this horrifying death sentence for babies.