

Thank you all for opening the floor so the voices of people for and against this bill can be heard. The power of the people in this great state deserve this opportunity and I am thankful that I can be here to share my story. I pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we present and that hearts and minds will be changed by all the testimony today.

I am here today because I know the pain of abortion. I was 19 when I felt like I had no choices. I was alone and ashamed and I chose what seemed like the easiest way out. I went into Planned Parenthood with tears running down my face. The tears never stopped. No one reached out and asked if this is really what I wanted to do. I knew there was a life growing inside of me and the guilt and shame was overwhelming. When I left that day that was the only time someone suggested therapy if I needed it. I spent decades with this pain. It affected every aspect of my life. The pain was overwhelming. I have asked my Lord and Savior for forgiveness and I believe I am forgiven. I will always feel a loss for what might have been but I believe I will see my baby again someday.

Abortion, without a medical reason, to me is wrong and I wish I had not had that choice available to me when I was 19 but the bill H.00057 is so much more than a first trimester abortion. This bill does many things but out of the three specific rights that it says it protects there are two that I am asking you to stand up against. The first is:

(b) Every individual who becomes pregnant has the fundamental right to choose to carry a pregnancy to term, give birth to a child, or to have an abortion.

1. This allows abortions to be performed at ANY stage of pregnancy or any reason or no reason at all. A baby has a heart beat after 18 days, distinct fingerprints at 9 weeks, and a 10 weeks old baby can feel pain. Yet we are now allowing abortions to be performed up until delivery. And if an abortion fails and a live child is born this bill will allow for them to do nothing to help that child!
2. Abortions could be performed if the baby isn't the desired sex, or for any genetic condition, maternal depression could also be another reason. If someone with depression goes off medicine to protect her baby and later becomes depressed she could make a decision that she would not have made if healthy.
3. What if someone is being coerced into making this decision? Speedy abortions will only add to the abuse of these vulnerable people.
4. A pregnant mother that abuses drugs, alcohol or otherwise puts the child at risk can be admitted to rehab or therapy by DCF to protect the child. This would deny life saving treatment to the mother and child

The second is:

(c) A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under Vermont law.

The generic writing of this portion opens up so many possibilities for immoral actions to take place.

1. A parent loses a pregnancy because of someone else's actions and now will have no recourse against the person that took away their child. After all it is only a fetus with no rights!
2. The "organs and tissues" that are available after an abortion can be used for experimentation. We protect animals more than babies.
3. The harvesting of organs and tissues for experimentation are more valuable later in the pregnancy. Could women be encouraged to carry longer for the good of science? Late term abortion has started a practice of crushing the child's skull and removing the gray

matter to allow the child to fit more easily through the birth canal and to preserve the organs for harvesting.

I understand that the above has been changed but I have not seen the wording. What of these above 3 points is changed by this change?

The other portion of the bill that worries me is about  
INTERFERENCE WITH REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE PROHIBITED  
it reads:

(a) A public entity as defined in section 9496 of this title shall not, in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, or information, deny or interfere with an individual's fundamental rights to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization or to choose to carry a pregnancy to term, to give birth to a child, or to obtain an abortion. No State or local law enforcement shall prosecute any individual for inducing, performing, or attempting to induce or perform the individual's own abortion.

1. If a school nurse that is slow to refer a middle school girl to an abortion clinic because of suspected coercion, is she now guilty of interfering?
2. A Dr. or Nurse that does not agree with the decision and does not want to perform the procedure will he/she lose their job? Private clinics I believe are exempt but what about any hospital or Dr that receive state tax dollars. We have a hard enough time in this state keeping medical personnel here. This will only push more away.
3. Any medical personnel from orderly's to surgeons currently have a conscience protection clause in the University Medical Center's handbook. Could they now be forced to perform those duties that go against their conscience?
4. What about my right to attend a march or picket a clinic. Will that be considered interfering with their rights? Could we be stopped by a unsympathetic "public entity"?
5. Would this non prosecute portion also allow for the horrible conditions and treatment of babies as seen in the Gosnell America's Biggest Serial Killer. Would he be a free man if this happened here after this bill goes through.

This bill allows for murder of children for no reason, no protection for mothers being coerced into this decision, takes away all legal rights of the egg, embryo and fetus, doesn't allow people to work in the best interest of children that are pregnant and forces Dr's, Nurses and other medical personnel to take part in something that their conscience says they can't.

I know the reason for this bill is because many of you are worried, don't trust, and just plain don't like our President. Don't let your fears push you into going so far from what is right. I stand with our President fighting for life. If you can't go as far as to say abortion is wrong at least consider that late term abortion for no medical reason is!

Let's not rush to get this done. If you want to protect abortion than at least state what that means. Put restrictions on when and for what reason. Assuming that this law will not be abused is not the correct way to proceed. We have laws and protections spelled out everywhere. This very important bill should do nothing less. Show Vermonters what you stand for by stating what this bill will protect and prevent. Outline what you stand for and protect women and children from abuses this bill could bring.

Thank you for your time today. God Bless you all.