

Hello, I am unable to leave work to testify in person please find below my written testimony in support of H57.

It is my strong assertion that passing H57 is one of the most important actions that the Vermont house can take to protect the health and welfare of all Vermonters. Ending a pregnancy is not a decision that people come to lightly and the impacts of this choice are profound and long-lasting. Given the weight and impact this a decision that should be made freely by the person who is pregnant and not limited by lawmakers who have no idea what that person is going through. I've held the hands of friends who have had to make this choice, and as a social worker, I have supported the people faced with this decision both during and in the aftermath of these challenging choices. The reasons those choices are made are none of our business. The choice to end a pregnancy should be a protected healthcare decision and we have no right to force our opinions and beliefs into doctors' offices. If the federal government rolls back reproductive rights and access to abortion, women will die, just as they did before abortions were legalized, and by codifying standing Vermont practice into law by passing H57 we will save lives. I strongly urge you to vote to protect the rights Vermonters have to make reproductive healthcare choices for themselves with the counsel of their healthcare providers.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the deep social justice implications facing us at this time in America and Vermont.

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Preferred Pronouns (she/her/her)

"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen."

~ Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross