

Ann Golob
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RE: SUPPORT H.57 TO PRESERVE THE RIGHT TO ABORTION

February 5, 2019

Dear Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

I am writing to strongly and emphatically support H.57 to preserve the right to abortion **for all women**. As a mother and a volunteer working with young mothers and their children in the Brattleboro area, I believe that the decision on whether or not to carry a pregnancy and give birth and raise a child is one that resides with the woman alone and that it is a private decision which should be made in consultation with her doctor. To preserve that right it is necessary for the law to be written broadly to ensure that any woman of any age at any stage of her pregnancy can make that decision. I realize that writing the law with that broad level of guarantee frightens many who worry that there will be those who may choose an abortion when a fetus might instead be viable. Let us be very clear. Late stage abortions are exceedingly rare; according to a recent article in the [New York Times](#) there are only approximately a dozen doctors across the entire United States that provide them. No doctor would agree to it and no hospital would allow their facilities to provide a late stage abortion if there was a reasonable chance the fetus could survive outside the womb. So why write the language so broadly? Because that is the only way the law can guarantee that the decision is always between a woman and her doctor – a woman of any age or any circumstance or any need. I personally experienced this when I lost a much wanted pregnancy late in the second trimester. The choice was to wait until the fetus was expelled or to have an abortion. I chose an abortion. My doctor never even considered the alternative with me. The only medically sound option was an abortion. It was painful and awful but it was much better than waiting until who knows when or who knows with what consequences the alternative might have played out.

To those who oppose abortions, I support your right to make that choice for yourself. But as a woman I demand the right to make that decision on whether or not to seek an abortion for myself based on my religion, my moral beliefs, my medical needs, my circumstances and my choice. The only way the law can guarantee that right and ensure that the choice remains a private decision between a woman and her doctor is to write the law broadly. Please do that. There will not be a rash of late stage abortions. But for those who want an abortion, there will be grateful women who appreciate the privacy granted to them under the law to make that grueling decision privately and with dignity. All women deserve that.

Thank you.

Ann Golob