

My name is Anna Luke. I was raised in VT and love the state dearly. I moved to Pennsylvania when I married my husband but lately we have been considering relocating our family to VT. That could all change if H.57 is passed.

Vermonters bemoan young people moving away and the struggling economy. However, why would young people and/or young families want to stay in VT if their unborn children have no rights under the law? I want to live in a state where my children are valued, from conception until natural death. It hardly makes sense to say that there aren't enough young people in this state and then pass a bill that fails to protect the youngest human beings of all, the unborn.

What makes this bill so particularly repulsive is that a woman is given the right to kill her baby right up until the moment of birth, simply because she doesn't want it. However, if she were to kill that baby after birth and after she discovers the rigors of parenthood then suddenly child abuse advocates would be calling for justice. People cannot turn their backs on the fact that, regardless of a woman's rights over her body, there is a living human being inside the womb, a human being that has thoughts and a personality, a human being that can feel pain, a human being that should have equal rights under the law. Yes, a woman has the right to make decisions about her body but no person has the right to choose to kill another human being. I ask the same questions here in VT that have been asked in other states. If this bill were to pass, what would happen if a woman were planning to abort her baby and she suddenly went into labor? Or, if an abortion fails and the baby survives what happens then? Is the baby then killed outside of the womb? Vermonters need to hear the real answers to those questions.

VT prides herself on natural beauty, healthy living, and independent thinking. However, what's the point of that, if unborn babies aren't given the opportunity to experience them?

Thank you for giving me a chance to share my opinion.

Sincerely,
Anna Luke