

Testimony Before the House Committee on Human Services
Vermont General Assembly
By Denice Brown Gagne, Barre, VT
In RE: H.57

January 30, 2019

Attn: Rep. Ann Pugh, Committee Chair

Madame Chair:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Despite my underlying and serious ethical objections to the central focus of this bill I would like to present a very real testimony that would bear authenticity to my objections.

Since my youth I have wanted a large family, five or six children. During my childbearing years it was found that I couldn't bear children. Because my now deceased husband and I want the same number of children, we got approved to adopt from 0-18. About a month after we got approved, our case worker came and said she had a baby. That baby's mother had been gang raped, was on drugs both prescribed and not prescribed, and had a mental issue. All of those are reasons for abortion. If she had done that I would not have a 36 year old son and a 7 year old grandson. There were NO complications from what the mother had done.

As one who has adopted, I would advocate for adoption being presented to every woman who is faced with a "problem pregnancy".

I once heard a quotation that if all of the abortions done in a year were set up for adoption, it would take 5 years to place one child in the home of everyone who wants to adopt.

Adopting babies has been hard for me as I am sure it has been for others. As a mother who wanted so much to have a big family I lament that something hasn't been done to allow those babies to be born and be loved, nurtured, and protected by their family.

Please reject this bill and make one that mandates offering adoption to all seeking abortion so that these children may be born and have a loving family.

Thank you.

Denice Brown Gagne