

I am writing to you regarding the bill H.57. I would like to be there to testify at the Statehouse on Wednesday, but am unable. I would like to express my thoughts and concerns regarding this bill. I am a single 23 year old female. Although I know that all the things in H.57 already exist, I don't want to see it turn into Vermont law. I am oppose this bill and here is why. I am an American citizen that fully believes in the rights we have in the U.S. constitution. But I see a major discrepancy in this being possible by bill H.57. It states "A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights 19 under Vermont law." This would mean that we are denying an American of his/her rights under the U.S. constitution. Why? First and foremost, you have taken away that American's right to free speech, you have not given an opportunity for that child to declare whether or not they want to live. This is something that can't be answered in the womb or for long after, so we have no right to violate their constitutional right. Allowing others to choose whether someone's life should end or not, without allowing the one in question to defend themselves or make a statement does not follow due process.

I am going to 100% bring women's rights into this. Equal rights, that is what we as women in today's world want, is it not? I think that this is good, all should be treated with respect and valued for who they are and what they bring to the table. So women want to say that it is a women's choice whether or not a child in the womb should be aborted. Hmm, have we thought, about the rights they are robbing of future women? The ones yet unborn? While women's rights stands up for the women around us that are walking around today, it does not for women of the future. If my mother had not wanted me, where would I be today? Branching out even farther, where would any of us be if our mothers made the choice to not let us live? Think about the mother of Andrea Bocelli, a singer with a beautiful voice, or Ben Carson who became a neuroscientist. Each individual has added and given so much to our world that would just be plain missing if it weren't for their mothers' choice. What would it be like if your colleagues, family, friends or loved ones, were the ones who had no say and whose lives were at stake? What if they were the ones in jeopardy? Or what if they never even got to know you, because their lives were ended in the womb? It's a reality I think of often. Life begins at conception.

Thank you,
Fiona Johnson