

To whom it may concern,

My name is Janelle Brennan, I am 30 years old and I live in barre with my husband and two children. My purpose for writing you today is to express my thoughts and hopes when it comes to Vermont's abortion laws. I know there is a public hearing today but unfortunately due to my in home childcare business I am unable to make it to the hearing in time. First off I want you to know a bit about my family. I met my husband of almost 9 years in high school our senior year in 2005 (we've been together ever since) in 2008 he was severely injured and became paralyzed from the waist down. After surgeries, rehab stays etc we were engaged four months later and married in 2010. Due to his injury it is nearly impossible for us to have biological children. Therefor we were brought to the path of adoption. We have a 5 year old son who we rescued and adopted from Sierra Leone during ebola. And we have an 18 month old daughter who we adopted as an embryo from a family who had completed IVF and were finished with their remaining 7 embryos. My fertility specialist transferred Elliana's embryo into my uterus and I was able to give birth to her and nurse her for 15 months. Experiencing it all was simply humbling and breathtaking when it came to bringing our children home. To say that the lives of ALL little ones are important to myself and my husband Tim is an understatement. It says a lot about a person and in this case a state by how they care for the "least of these" and the vulnerable. A baby in the womb no matter the gestational age is the most vulnerable one can be. We are all created miraculously by the hands of God, we are all uniquely made for a purpose and no one has the right to take those possibilities away from anyone. I believe in walking along side women and families who need support emotionally, physically, financially etc and either allowing the child to be adopted into a family who would love a baby, or aiding that family in raising the child. We saw my daughters heart beat on ultra sound at 5 weeks 6 days pregnant at a strong 113 beats per minute and it was the most beautiful thing. We knew she was an individual from the moment her embryo was created (conception of any form ivf or natural) but seeing the heartbeat was only further miraculous evidence that a baby so tiny could have such intricate detail and specific make up is a living human being who solely relies on the woman to allow it to grow. Time is all it needs to be able to live and thrive. As far as "medically necessary" abortions, past the rate of viability (24 weeks gestation) delivery is and should be the only option. Abortion that far out into pregnancy is never a reason to inject deadly serums into a baby's heart, and suction out the brain and then ripping a baby apart limb from limb. It's simply barbaric and certainly not an easier route for either mother or baby than a delivery or c-section. We have major medical advancement to give medical attention to a mother and or her baby in the midst of an emergency. And as far as allowing a baby to be born and then deciding if it should live or not is simply u thinkable! Murder is all it is. I urge you to hear my plea and the pleas of others who stand for life. Please let's be Vermonters who cherish life and fight for the rights of ALL! We as Vermonters have led many movements in the past, let's lead in cherishing life!!!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,
Janelle Brennan
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