

I am writing to express my opposition to State Bill H.57, and I strongly encourage the State of Vermont Legislature and the Governor to not sign this bill into law.

I stand and speak on behalf of the lives that cannot speak for themselves yet. These lives are more than just tissues, chromosomes, nerves, veins and organs; they are human lives in the making. Human lives that were never going to be anything other than that, if given the chance. The only difference between these lives and each of our own is time. Time we were given to grow. To take that opportunity away from them is wrong. We need to stand in respect for life, not death.

These lives were created and ordained by God Almighty for a reason; each life has a purpose, no matter if it only lasts days or a hundred years. Life is created by God, and only God should have the authority to end it. Once that life is created, it is its own life and no one should have the right to end it for any reason.

It is often stated that medical professionals should have final input on the decision to terminate pregnancy or not. I would simply like to point out the hundreds of thousands of American lives that are lost each year due to medical mistakes. A Johns Hopkins Medicine article (Study Suggests Medical Errors Now Third Leading Cause of Death in the U.S., released 5/3/16) states over 250,000 deaths per year are due to medical error. Doctors are human, they make mistakes, and cannot possibly play God and say when life should or should not end.

Abortion in itself, no matter at what stage of the pregnancy it takes place at, is murder. The ways in which it is carried out, and the potential usage of body parts for "scientific" purposes, is abhorrent and sickening and has no place in a civilized culture. It also contradicts the argument that the fetus is not a viable life.

A fertilized egg, embryo or fetus is absolutely a life, if given the chance to grow, and its independent rights need to be protected under Vermont law. I urge you to do just that.

Thank you,

Janet Richardson