

Jeannine A. Young
Craftsbury Common, VT

February 6, 2019

RE: H.57

Dear Members of the House Human Services Committee:

I had planned to testify in person this evening, but with the predicted bad weather conditions, I am submitting this written testimony.

I find it abhorrent that in two thousand nineteen we need to defend the lives of unborn babies. Science has come so far from what was known in 1973, when Roe vs Wade was decided.

I won't bore you with the detailed facts of a baby's development, but we do now know that doctors can operate on unborn babies to correct problems. Babies can now survive outside the womb at earlier and earlier ages. Back in 1988, a Canadian baby, James Elgin Gill, was born at just 21 weeks 5 days gestation. That was in 1988! James beat all of the odds, growing to be a healthy teenager and in 2006 was known to be heading off to college at the typical age. (<https://www.verywellfamily.com/worlds-smallest-preemies-2748663>)

This bill takes away all rights of an unborn. H.57 states that "A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under Vermont law." How does that affect the rights of the unborn to share in the estate of a deceased parent? Vermont Statutes Title 14 Section 332 and Title 14a Sections 303-305 give the unborn rights to their parents' estates and trusts.

Here we are in 2019 and we are talking about allowing abortions through all nine months, taking away all rights from a living human being just because they are incubating inside their mothers' wombs? How barbaric is that? There are no protections in this bill for religious exemptions or for people who in no way can support the killing of babies.

I have a 1982 recording of my youngest son's heartbeat at 16 weeks gestation. That's not my heart, but an independent life, a human being. I wish you could hear it!

This Legislative session, there are two House (H. 99 & H. 158) and two Senate bills (S.16 & S.29) to protect animals. Yet, we have to fight to protect human lives?

We always hear the stories of the "hard cases." The whole idea of women needing abortions to "save the life of the mother" is misleading. A doctor should work to save the lives of both the mother and the baby. Dr. Jérôme Lejeune (June 1926-April 1994) was a French pediatrician and geneticist. He is best known for discovering the link of diseases to chromosome abnormalities, including Down Syndrome. His credentials are impeccable. Dr. Lejeune opposed abortion. He is reported to have said that he "never saw a case where abortion was necessary."

I strongly urge you to do the right thing and protect the babies who cannot speak for themselves. You are here-your mother did the right thing.

Sincerely,

Jeannine A. Young