

My name is Joshua Abetti from Concord, VT. Thank you for this opportunity. One thing I appreciate about this legislature and the state of Vermont is the emphasis on human rights, something I value as well. But the main reason I oppose this bill is because it doesn't value the rights of humans enough. *Should we not as Vermonters value the rights of all humans from all walks of life and all stages of development?*

And of course, we're talking about the unborn, living human. Why would we allow the right to privacy or the right to reproductive services overrule the greatest right of all, the right to live? Should we not uphold that right for the unborn human as well?

In my nursing training, I learned that science has proven that we are humans, from zygote to adulthood. Regardless of our stage of development, the perpetual reality of our humanness is unchanged. Our unique genetic makeup expressed in unique physical features demonstrates our humanness. Our **location** doesn't determine our humanness, whether you are implanted in your mother's uterus or standing in this chamber. When a human fetus exits the birth canal, they don't magically transform into a human. They were a human from day 1 of conception. Also, our **dependency** doesn't determine our humanness whether a person is dependent on their mother's blood supply for oxygen through their umbilical cord OR if they are dependent on the care of others in a nursing home.

In closing, there is no greater right than the right to live. I know we have conflicting rights on the table. *But does our state really want to pass legislation that gives individuals greater authority and autonomy to kill another living human being and deny them their right to live? Why not send a message to the world that Vermont is a culture that celebrates life; a culture that welcomes babies; a state that supports pregnant women and their families. Let's send that message instead. Thank you for your time.*

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