

I am in attendance at the hearing this afternoon, but was unable to speak because there were others before me. Please read the following message to the committee. I am opposed to H57.

Ladies and gentlemen, I urge you to oppose H57.

I have three children of my own, and I have been a part of the foster care system as a foster parent. I have fostered four children- one for 22 months, two for 15 months, and one for 8 months. My sisters have both adopted children that they want and love. They are grateful for the birth mothers for their part in the formation of their families.

These children whose birth parents would not or could not take care of them ARE valuable. They are wanted by their adoptive families. They are loved by my family, their adoptive families, social workers, doctors, teachers, and so many others.

The bill H57, which gives no rights to unborn human beings, is absurd. If unborn humans are not actually people, why do the actions of pregnant women have such a huge impact on their babies- creating consequences that follow that child throughout their entire lives?

If the unborn are not valuable, why do we protect unborn animals, such as eagle eggs? Why are animals protected and valued while human lives are discarded as trash?

I believe in women's rights. I believe in the value of women. I am so thankful for my right to vote, to speak up, to work, to parent my children, and to worship God. I do not, nor should I, have the right to murder another human being, whether adult, child, or unborn. This bill, H57, legalizes and condones murder.

I urge you to reject H57, and instead call people to take responsibility for their actions. If a woman does not want to raise a child, she has options. 1. Don't have sex. 2. Use birth control. 3. Allow your baby to be adopted. Murder should not be an option for an unexpected or unwanted child.

Sincerely,

Kristi Pankratz