

It is with deep concern and disappointment in the elected officials of the state of Vermont that I am writing to express my outrage over this proposed bill. It is a misnomer to say that it is to preserve the right to abortion when, in fact, it expands abortion rights to an unprecedented level. The Hippocratic oath, taken by physicians when they begin their career, states that the physician will do all in their power to do no harm. How can the state of Vermont demand that these medical professionals set aside this oath to do no harm by putting them in the position of harming unborn babies?

As a Christian I am certain that God is the giver of life. It is not our right to set parameters on that. Three years ago I sat in a hospital room with my daughter and son-in-law weeping at the loss of their daughter who was stillborn at 26 1/2 weeks gestation. I held my grand-daughter's body and I marveled at how perfect she was- she weighed over 2 pounds, had lots of dark hair with a beautiful little face and perfect fingers and toes. As I've contemplated H.57 I've thought about little Ellia and I've wondered how the committee would explain that if she had been born breathing at 26 1/2 weeks, then all medical effort would have been utilized to preserve her life. But if another mother whose baby was also 26 1/2 weeks gestation decided to abort her child, then the medical effort would be utilized to end that life. What possible law would recognize the same aged preterm fetus as a baby in one scenario but a non-living group of cells in the other? This makes no sense.

Our elected officials have the responsibility to hear the concerns and wishes of their constituents. They are in Montpelier to represent us and not to advance agendas of outside organizations. Under no circumstance will I support any elected official who supports this egregious bill. I would ask the committee to consider the deep moral ramifications of this bill and make the right decision to table it. We do not have the right to end life or to pick and choose what constitutes life.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan MacDonald
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