

February 6, 2019

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Dear Members of the House,

When I became a pastor in 2001, I never would have guessed that I would one day sit before a House Committee testifying against a bill that says that preborn babies have zero rights. But here we are in that situation today, so here I am today.

Isaiah 45:10 says, "*Woe to him who says to a woman, 'With what are you in labor?'*"  
Everybody knows the answer is a baby, a human being.

As Christians, we believe and proclaim that God makes every child. Job 10:11, talking to God, explains, "*You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life...*"

The Bible tells us in multiple places that human beings are made in the image of God, which means that we have value given to us by God based on being human, not what we can offer.

One major concern about H.57 is this phrase, "A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under Vermont law."

- No rights? Does this mean that he or she is property, having body parts that could be sold or used for scientific experimentation?
- Can we at least find common ground that babies who can feel pain should be given rights?
- At what point would insurance companies no longer be required to cover life saving medicines and procedures that are administered in the womb?
- Why would you put your name on a bill that takes away the right of a woman to seek justice for her baby when she is a pregnant victim of a violent crime?
- What about babies born alive during a late term abortion, which a 2017 U.S. House Investigative Panel found is more common than usually claimed?
- We have been told that H.57 would not infringe on Faith-based Pregnancy Centers. Where is it in writing that they would not be required to present abortion as an alternative?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor during the Nazi regime. Bonhoeffer pastored during a time that his government, the Nazis, said that an entire segment of humanity had no personhood.

Bonhoeffer courageously declared, "Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

We are speaking, and we are acting today, and we will continue to do so for those *you* are saying are non-people.

You will continue to hear from us until every baby in Vermont is not just given their rights back, but has an opportunity to have a birthday.