

711

This is not an easy task for me; speaking to the public about a very private event which happened to me in 1953, 20 years before Roe v. Wade made abortion legal.

I was a dopey teenager in love. I became pregnant at 17 - a junior in high school. Both my parents and the boy's parents, <sup>set</sup> ~~were adamant that an~~ abortion was necessary. Fortunately, both sets of parents were wealthy and connected enough that a medical doctor, an OB/GYN who had a regular practice in New York City, was found and did the procedure, after hours, in his mid-town office.

That allowed me to finish high school, go to college and ultimately marry that boy and have three wonderful children. A happy ending.

Now - what would my life be like if our parents were not connected, wealthy and supportive?

Would a back-alley abortion have taken place? How would that have affected my physical and mental health?

Without access to an abortion would I have struggled, as a teen-age single mother without any higher education, to support a family?

Nature is profligate with the seeds of conception. Women are born with enough ova to shed one every month of their reproductive lives.

Men release more than 50 million sperm in a single ejaculation.

As a result, we are bringing way too many humans onto this planet. That's a plea for reproductive education, for contraception, for the imperative that women should be respected to make their own decisions about their reproductive lives.

And a final thought; religious conservatives have co-opted this debate, and rooted it in theology.. The First Amendment to our Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion". To me, that says, you can practice whatever religion you choose, but don't try to legislate your religious ideas onto me.

For all these reasons, I support H57. Let's maintain the status quo!

Submitted by Dotty Kyle, Warren VT