

Pastor Jerry Scheumann
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Dear House Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Jerry Scheumann, I serve as pastor at Ludlow Baptist Church, and I urge you to vote against H.57 for three reasons.

First, it ignores the personhood of the baby. My wife gave birth to our fourth child, beautiful little Elliana, 19 days ago. This law states that my little girl—who had her own distinct DNA at conception, whose heart started to beat 3 weeks after conception, who made my wife’s belly bounce the last four months with her powerful kicks—that 20 days ago, she had ‘no independent rights.’

Second, it encourages economic suicide. According to the Center for Disease Control, the total fertility rate in Vermont in 2017 was 1.5/woman, tied for lowest in the Union, and more than half a child lower than replacement rate. This ensures an aging population, and therefore a higher tax burden with businesses and schools closing down. All laws teach, and this law teaches us to continue to devalue children and our economic future.

Third, this bill ignores and defies the most important person. A prophet—one of your own—said, “Imagine if there is no heaven...no hell below us, above us only sky.” That’s what this bill assumes.

But there is a God who made the world and everything it in, is the One who has shaped and fashioned every one of us in our mother’s womb. We are made in God’s image, which means every baby is valuable and belongs to God. This bill defies God’s image and declares a mother has the right to kill her child. But she does not. Jesus Christ died, rose again, and is seated at God’s right hand as Lord over all, and he commands all rulers to serve him with fear lest they perish in his wrath (Psalm 2:11-12).

I call you legislators, for your sake, to honor Christ and reject this bill.

Respectfully,

Jerry Scheumann

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Scheumann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.