

Statement of Robin McCormick, Colchester, regarding Senate Proposition 5

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was killed for speaking out against Adolph Hitler, once said, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil." I believe that – and I also believe that Senate Proposition 5 is a great wrong.

Vermont's current lurch towards enshrining abortion right up to the day of birth is both dismaying and perplexing.

Many in our legislature seem determined to create laws that they insist no one will ever use. During the House debate on H 57, I listened to some representatives proclaim that abortion never actually occurs in the third trimester and that no one would ever seek an abortion in the third trimester. To quote one supporter of H 57, the idea that a woman would have an abortion of a viable baby in her third trimester was as ludicrous as "aliens landing and kidnapping our children." And then she demanded that a law be passed allowing the very thing that she so glibly swore could never happen.

The fact is, abortions *are* performed in the second and third trimester – and not just on babies who have no chance of survival. The fact is, abortions *are* performed on babies who can survive outside their mothers' wombs. And this is wrong. It should not be countenanced by any civilized society.

The Senate now presents a proposal that will enshrine abortion in the state constitution. Yes, it is called "personal reproductive autonomy." But, please – it's about abortion. Unlimited, unregulated, anytime- you- want -it abortion. It's about ensuring that even a viable baby – a child who could live on his or her own outside the mother's womb --is never recognized as a human being, never given the rights that we claim are "natural, inherent, and unalienable." It's about denying the humanity of the most vulnerable and fragile of our humans. It is in keeping with those in the past who have promoted eugenics, slavery, and genocide in any form – if you deny the humanity of those you wish to kill, then you can pretend it's not really killing.

Bonhoeffer also said: "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children." What sad, new world is this that we're creating, when we want to "enshrine" as one of our most valued rights the right to kill our children? Please don't do this.