

To: State of Vermont House Legislators

From: Ed Sulva, Charlotte

Re: H.57

I am writing this letter regarding H.57 legislation. I appreciate you considering my below thoughts and comments related to the bill.

In Vermont we work hard to tackle hard issues for the good of many. Our laws support works for children, sick, wounded, low income, consumers, the environment, criminals, elderly – many with few voices. These are complicated issues. The State provides many programs and funding for the noted mentioned issues. So it is heart wrenching to me that the State is taking a turn-your-head-away approach to a child in the womb, someone with no voice.

Bringing up a child is hard, I know, and likely you do too. I realize some individuals are more prepared, both economically and emotionally, to take on this consuming task. But, as noted, there is help in many places in this giving State – through the State and various nonprofits.

I was brought up by my parents (and leaders) to take responsibility for my actions. We hear this all the time. We are outraged when individuals and organizations do not accept this responsibility – watch and read the news daily. Injury we see and hear has far reaching effects both physically and emotionally. Several individuals testified on February 8th at the Statehouse stating they “made mistakes” and thus became pregnant. We all have made mistakes. This bill is so contrary to this ownership concept. H57 says, if you make a mistake, we’ll make it go away easily, and you don’t have to pay for it too! Why, for example, if I commit a DUI, a mistake, doesn’t the State forgive me? On top of that, why doesn’t the State pay the additional auto insurance I will incur?

Will this bill go farther and allow the killing of a child after birth because of any circumstance of choice? I pray not, but the ease of moving forward of this bill seems this is possible.

I understand that most rescue squads and law enforcement agencies in Vermont now carry Narcan that can reverse a drug overdose. What a good thing! What a good thing it would be for that compassion for life to be used to help the lives of children in the womb.

I, in no way, think this is women’s responsibility alone, it takes two to conceive and it should be two for the solution. I very much understand, for a mother, it is much more emotional and I am not blinded by this fact.

Why have there been many bills providing a right for prisoners, but H57 doesn’t provide a right for a child in the womb?

Why does the University of Vermont require parent's financial records for financial aid applications but not allow assistance from parents within H57?

If you have had children, I'm sure you and/or your partner felt your child in the womb and were glad. You knew that what you felt was life.

There was a Doritos commercial during the Super Bowl where a child in the womb recognized the Doritos outside the womb. If you laughed at the commercial, appropriate or not, and vote for H57, you are a hypocrite.

I understand there is no death penalty in Vermont, for any reason. I disagree, and H57 will widen the scope of the penalty of abortion.

I am not against abortions due to rape and endangerment of a mother. I am in favor a heavier sentencing for rapists and individuals that harm women.

I encourage you to vote against H57.

I understand there is a plaque on the Freedom Tower in NYC. On the plaque are names of those killed in 9/11. Among those on the plaque are names of unborn children. I also understand the Tower was lit in pink to celebrate passing of NY's version of H57. What kind of mindset is it when we "celebrate" an issue such as H57.

Thank you for reading and sharing this letter.

PS The sound system in the outer rooms at the Statehouse on February 8th was terrible.