

Hello,

I was able to speak tonight, but was very emotional. It is my hope that you were able to understand me, but just in case, find my testimony below.

-Cate Cross, Shelburne

Good evening. My name is Cate Cross. I am originally from Rutland Vermont and now live in Shelburne. I am a mother of two healthy young boys, a wife of 24 years, work in marketing for a high tech firm, and serve in my local government.

I am here to speak in favor of reproductive freedom. I am here to share with you that not all women choose to have an abortion as a planned medical event. Some, like me, require an abortion to save their own lives.

Twelve years ago, due to a botched test in my “geriatric pregnancy”, I was over 35 years of age then, my life was endangered by an infection. Because of the test that went wrong, my fetus, 24 weeks gestation, was damaged and could not survive. I underwent an emergency procedure to end my pregnancy. If I were unable to have that procedure, I may have lost my life which would have left my 5 year old son motherless and my husband a single dad. Without protection of a woman’s right for reproductive freedom, this law would make procedures like the one that I had, illegal. This was a terrible loss for me and an emotional scar that I will never fully heal. That said, I am thankful that I was able to receive the right medical care for my needs at the time.

I ask that when you consider Prop 5, that you remember my story, and allow women, like men, to have access to the full spectrum of healthcare that they require.

Thank you for listening and for your service. Be well.