

Danielle Eaton
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LD 975

Honorable members of the Judiciary,

I submit my testimony in opposition to LD 975: "An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion."

I started using birth control at 14 years old, before I ever became sexually active. Why? Because my periods were so painful that I would become completely incapacitated. I'd spend hours, usually throughout the night, lying on the floor of the bathroom: pale, sweating, writhing, and vomiting from the pain. It's hard to describe that level of pain, or how tortuous it is to have to endure it for such long periods of time. No amount of ibuprofen could touch it. This meant I would miss school, practices, or social events. Using birth control helped me to even out my hormones and make my periods, while still very painful, more bearable. The pill kept me in school and from falling behind academically. I now have the unpleasant experience of watching my own daughter go through the exact same experience.

Today I am the proud mother of two beautiful children, but it should have been three. My third pregnancy ended in miscarriage. Thankfully my body didn't need any medical assistance with the rejection of this pregnancy: a process that I always assumed took a day or two. No. Miscarriage takes weeks. Weeks of bleeding, cramping, and crying. Weeks of being slowly dragged down into depression. I can only imagine the added trauma of needing medical care with miscarriage. Requiring women to report their miscarriages, or potentially is cruel and disgusting.

I do, however, have many friends and family members who have required abortion care. None of them are the stereotypes supporters of legislation like this one love to spew. These are people who wanted their babies, but had to make very difficult decisions because of unviable pregnancies. Married people who had to walk through crowds of hateful "protestors" to receive medical care at Planned Parenthood. And then past them again: bleeding, crying, and grieving their loss while monsters with signs screamed at them for their "sins". We named those babies. We mourned them and think of them often.

Legislation like this claims to be about protecting the unborn, but cares little for the lives of women and girls. This is about controlling women. In the same way that your erectile dysfunction or how you choose to treat it is none of my business, what happens in my uterus is none of yours. The fact that we are even talking about my and my daughter's body is gross. Please reject this legislation as it is harmful to women.