

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Lorraine King, and I'm a resident of Sorrento. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

I was 18 and married with a 3 month old baby when I found out I was pregnant again. After seeking counsel from my husband, family, and friends, the word abortion came up many times. I was so young and overwhelmed, it seemed the only reasonable thing to do. So, we made the appointment to have the abortion.

Even after a brief counseling session at the clinic, I was not prepared for what was about to happen in that exam room. My husband was allowed to accompany me and from his vantage point, he was able to view the entire procedure. They used clear plastic tubing and he was able to see the pieces of our child being sucked up the tubing from my womb. Devastated, he fell onto my chest sobbing uncontrollably, joining me in my own deep anguish. Some part of me knew that I had done something horribly wrong but it was too late to change anything. The next few days of dealing with such a traumatic experience found me curled up in the fetal position, in pain emotionally and physically, barely able to get out of bed.

Over time, the pain lessened. I had more children but I often thought of the child that was not allowed to live. What would he have looked like? (I always thought the baby was a boy.) I would never feel his little arms around my neck and he would not know my good night kisses. He never got to take his first steps, to laugh, and to play. He wouldn't graduate from school or get married or have his own kids. What does it look like to steal an entire life from someone?

Looking back over my life, I've considered the abortion to be the worst mistake I've ever made. It brought me so much sorrow and regret. Even today, more than 40 years later, I cannot tell my story without tears because of the pain that still lingers in my heart. My one consolation is that because I believe in a loving God, I will once again see my child when I join him in heaven and that gives me peace.

Though abortion seemed like the best solution, in retrospect, I know I could have made it work with two babies. There have been other things in my life I didn't think I would be able to get through and yet I did. I've found that I am stronger than I knew! If my story touches even one woman to make her rethink her decision to abort her child, I consider it worth the vulnerability and sorrow of telling it!

Thank you for letting me share my experience. Please vote ought not to pass.