

Testimony IN FAVOR OF the Precious Innocents bill:

Esteemed senators, congressmen, and guests: My name is Paul Badeau, and I am a resident of Gorham. I'd like to share a brief story regarding a college friend who shared an experience regarding his girlfriend, who would later become his wife of 32 years and counting.

We were talking about the issue of abortion one day, when he shared with me that his girlfriend had had an abortion when she was a teenager, young and scared. It surprised me, as his girlfriend was the first person I had ever known that confessed to having had an abortion. He shared how difficult it was for her to think of her unborn child and the mistake she had made, and the burden of guilt she carried with her for many years. She had acted at the time out of desperation, shame, and fear.

I believe that if she and others in her situation knew and could pay respects to the children whose lives were cut short through abortion, it would help people forgive themselves for their indiscretions, come to terms with their actions, and provide dignity to the unborn. It would also help others who may not realize the gravity and finality of abortion to see that these are, indeed, human remains.

Thank you for your time.

Paul Badeau