

**TESTIMONY OF CINDY SPELTZ BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ON S.B. 1343 CONCERNING COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**MARCH 13, 2007**

Good afternoon, Senator Harris and Representative Villano, and members of the Human Services committee.

My name is Cindy Speltz. I currently reside in St. Paul, Minnesota. I am a wife, mother and grandmother of two wonderful grandchildren.

At age 13, in 1970, I lost my mother to suicide. In 1974, I graduated from high-school. That same summer I turned 18.

While I was asleep in my own bed, a male person emerged from the bedroom closet in the middle of the night and proceeded to force himself on me against my will. Three and a half months later, I discovered I had conceived a child. My father had kicked me out into the street while I was pregnant.

All this happened only 18 months after Roe v Wade became effective in the United States.

I was literally homeless, motherless, penniless, jobless, a teenager, alone and pregnant by way of sexual assault. Also, I have a hereditary congenital physical disorder that is incurable. I had been told that I was the "perfect candidate" for an abortion. In the eyes of the world, my unborn baby's life was condemned.

On June 14, 1975, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Her name is Jennifer. She is here today to meet you along with my 4-month old grandson who would not be here if I had used "Plan B" to eliminate my daughter's life.

I have come here today to emphasize the intrinsic value of my child's life.

By my own raw, personal experience, I can speak firsthand as an American: in our civilized nation there is really no logical or valid reason to ever terminate a baby's life.

In the first several days after my sexual assault crisis, I was absolutely in no condition, mentally or emotionally, to make any long term, life-altering decisions that would affect the rest of my life by submitting to the use of a chemical abortifacient such as "Plan B".

Personally speaking, if I had granted permission and deliberately participated in my baby's death, that would have been the real tragedy I could never recover from as a victim of rape who lost a baby.

Giving birth to Jenni and raising her myself became a gradual healing process for me. I was able to recover and move on in my life. How could I deny my own child's life because of a violation someone else did to me?

She was a victim as well.

I have no regrets – only gratitude for her existence. I did the right thing that was in her best interest as well as my own. I now cherish the fruits of great love in my life – that of my 2 grandbabies!

Now isn't that what life's all about?

Thank you for allowing me this time to share my personal story.