

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Mrs. Teresa Vandal, and my husband and I have been citizens of Hartford, CT. for just over one and a half years. I come before you in a two-fold manner. First as a daughter of two Polish refugees that survived all the horrors of WWII Poland, and second as one of seven children to those parents. I have one sister and five brothers, one of which has done much to make a name for himself in the hospital/medical health industry, and one of which, through no fault of his own, was born with a physical disability that has been GREATLY under researched, as well as the brunt of much prejudice through the years, a disability simply known as brain damage. When he was born the doctors tried to convince my parents he would not get past a vegetable stage, but he did. When he was in school, the faculty and staff tried to convince my parents that learning a second language would only confuse him, but for his level of understanding he is nearly bi-lingual. He went on to hold jobs that to us might be considered quite ordinary, but to him gave him a chance to be useful and to contribute; jobs that allowed him to earn "Employee of the Month" not once but twice in CA. and a "Letter of Appreciation" from a commander of a school at Newport Naval Base in RI. Though he may not have any working knowledge of mathematics to speak of, he is incredible with trivia type knowledge to the point that, in a game like Trivial Pursuit, each and every one of you would probably have to cheat to keep up with him, and yet by such actions as allowing abortions just because a baby might be an "inconvenience," society is saying he and people like him do not have a voice; do not have a right to life itself.

I now ask you to consider this question. If you were to witness an adult trying to beat a newborn baby to death with a bat, would you not try to stop it? What makes that so different than an abortion of a fully formed, fully feeling baby in the womb using scalpels to cut the limbs away without at least the use of anesthesia, or using a needle to suck the brain fluids out of the tiny but functional brain? Though by law abortions are options to use whenever a woman does not feel they can take care of another life, there are also people who, no matter what trouble they might find themselves in, cannot in all conscience find abortion as an option. There are places that are available for those people to turn to, they provide all necessary information on what they offer, even including fulfilling such basic needs as diapers, bottles and formula, thus giving the potential mother all she might need to have a chance at other options. This law in front of us all threatens to greatly limit their ability to let women who are otherwise frightened and hurting know that they are not alone, and that there are other choices. For this reason, I

ask you all... no... I BEG you to vote no on House Bill 5416. Thank-you for your time.