

March 4, 2020

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee,

**I am writing and attending to testify in strong opposition to SB 274 An act concerning funding for Planned Parenthood and other Family Planning Clinics.**

When I found myself pregnant from a relationship that had barely just begun, I was scared. How will I do this? How will we do this? I am barely on my feet with my son, how will I have another child? These and many other thoughts raced through my mind. The baby's Father didn't hesitate to comfort me and let me know he would be there. I wasn't going to do this alone. I took a deep breath and began preparing for our child. WE began preparing for OUR child.

Some time went by, more than I care to admit and things were getting stressful. Fear crept in and I began to doubt the relationship. Which in turn would lead me to doubt my ability to Mother this child. Over the course of one conversation at a friend's house, after lamenting my situation, my child became a choice. In a split second I went from a woman who believed abortion was unthinkable, to a woman rushing home to call Planned Parenthood to schedule the removal of my baby from my womb.

That is why I am speaking out. One Phone Call to Planned Parenthood and my abortion was booked. Easy as ordering a pizza, I ordered the murder of my daughter. Abortion is not Health Care. The ending of a life by another life (remember the fetus has its own DNA) is defined as murder. Simply because Roe V. Wade made it legal doesn't change the result. Abortion ends a life!

Did Planned Parenthood take good care of me? No! They provided an abortion 72 hours after I made ONE phone call. No questions, no counseling, no asking the Father of the baby who wanted to be a Father and was told by me - No, you have no say. No ability to see the ultrasound of my growing child and no surgical consultation with the Doctor. As a matter of fact I never met the Doctor until after I was sedated and laying undressed with my legs stretched out into stirrups.

I remember crying, I remember the pain, I remember the sound of the suction. It haunted me for over a decade. I remember all the women moaning in the recovery area. I also remember never hearing from Planned Parenthood again.

I strongly support affordable healthcare, but again I say abortion is not healthcare! Abortion is the violent ending of the life of a baby. In many cases, mine included, it is also the beginning of trauma induced PTSD, depression, anxiety even suicidal tendencies that can stay with the Mother long after.

I will close with this, no one would ever tell a woman who had suffered a miscarriage that she aborted her baby, that would be cruel and unthinkable. Reason being, that child was wanted. Furthering the fact that most don't even argue these days, Abortion is a Choice that a Child is not wanted. Many have fought for this Choice. Many want this Choice. So why then should those of us who believe this choice is unconscionable be obligated to pay for it?

Thank You for your careful consideration in this matter,

Melissa Manion

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