

Tracy Bleim-Mount
Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio House Health Committee
March 26, 2019

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Boyd, and Members of the Ohio House Committee,

My story starts in 2005 when my husband and I tried to conceive a child, but due to his low sperm count we were unsuccessful for several years. We never felt like we should do infertility treatments and should just accept things as they were. Happily and surprisingly, we learned that I was pregnant with a girl in 2009, whom we named Elayna, which means light, because she was our "light of our lives".

While pregnant with Elayna, I learned that I was considered a high risk pregnancy due to my medullary sponge kidney. Because of this, I had to have a cesarean section. During my pregnancy, I also suffered from gestational thrombocytopenia, but it wasn't realized by the doctors until the day of her birth. In case you aren't aware of what that is, it basically makes your blood unable to clot, causing you to bleed out. I had knicked myself shaving that morning and it looked like I had been stabbed as it bled through my clothes. The doctors were able to deliver a healthy girl, Elayna, and we were both closely monitored for thrombocytopenia affects. I had to have several vials of blood taken every hour for at least 24 hours after the surgery. I was also given magnesium to prevent having a stroke. My obstetrician strongly encouraged me to either have a copper IUD inserted to prevent future pregnancies or if we did want to have another child to consider it very carefully because of the health risks involved to myself and my offspring. I chose to have a copper IUD inserted shortly afterward because of the health risks involved.

Jump to 2017, with my use of a copper IUD to prevent getting pregnant, I thought that I was being a responsible woman by exercising that birth control method. Unfortunately, the copper IUD failed and I became pregnant anyway with an ectopic pregnancy. We didn't feel that we could safely proceed with the pregnancy because of being high risk with medullary sponge kidney and thrombocytopenia, not to mention an ectopic pregnancy, so we made the very difficult decision to have an abortion. I was very worried that I may not survive the pregnancy and would never want Elayna to grow up without her biological mother. There was a lot of uncertainty as to whether the fetus would have survived through the ectopic pregnancy so with the knowledge gained, we made the decision to do what was safest for everyone involved.

I want you to think about Elayna not having her best cheerleader around for her growing years as you decide whether or not to support SB 23. You may gain one more in the world, but how many more are you taking out?

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 23, the six-week abortion ban.

Thank you.
Tracy Bleim-Mount