

Testimony of Diane Cartolano
S.B. 23
April 2, 2019

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. I am here in support of SB 23 because I personally understand the destructive effects of abortion.

There are few things more painful to contemplate than the death of a child, except, perhaps, being complicit in their death, which is exactly what I did when I had 2 abortions.

I believed all the lies: “it” was just a “mass of tissue”, unable to feel pain; it was my “right”; it was legal, so it what could be wrong with it? And worst, it would be over before I knew it and I could get on with my life.

Nothing could have been further from the truth.

I will never forget the horrific things I heard and saw, as my precious unborn children, were dismembered and suctioned out of what should have been the safest place in the world for them – my womb – into a cold glass jar on a table to my right. Nor will I forget the feelings of torment and unbearable regret when I realized the finality of my choices.

For years, I tried to suppress the truth of what I did, but it’s impossible to escape the consequences of causing the death

of another person, whether it happens on purpose or by accident.

Over time, I exhibited many common post-abortive symptoms such as: repressed and unrepressed anger, perfectionism; overwhelming shame and guilt; difficulty sleeping; depression; suicidal thoughts; financial difficulties; alcohol abuse; promiscuity; emotional indifference; debilitating insecurity and more. But the worst consequence by far, was being robbed of the fullness of joy I should have had at the birth of my daughters, after I was married several years later. By God's grace, I have been healed and my goal is not to inflict further condemnation, but to offer hope of healing and restoration to anyone here who has also been wounded by abortion, but I also feel a responsibility to expose the truth.

And the truth about abortion is this: *It is an act of violence that unjustly ends the life of an innocent human being and wounds a woman for life.* Euphemisms like "choice" and "fetus" (which is simply Latin for "small child") no matter how clever or how often they are repeated, will never change that truth.

So, what makes humans valuable? Is it because of what we can do, achieve or contribute to society? No. All unborn lives have value, and if we confuse one's value with one's function, what's to stop us from applying that same standard to those outside the womb? Although, sadly, this is already happening.

Only 4 things distinguish the born from the unborn. Think of the acronym SLED: **S**ize, **L**evel of Development, **E**nvironment (or location) and **D**egree of Dependency. None of which are acceptable criteria for killing innocent persons who are already born, so why are they acceptable for killing innocent unborn persons?

We didn't come from embryos. We once *were* embryos. From conception on, we are becoming more mature, not more human. A 6-inch journey down the birth canal does not magically turn us into human beings.

It is both arrogant and ignorant to base the value of someone's life on arbitrary standards such as being: wanted, planned, convenient, "perfect", affordable, or marginalizing their humanity because they were conceived through the heinous act of rape or incest. The acts are heinous, not the children. The circumstances of our conception have no bearing on the value of our lives, nor should our misguided and impossible attempts to predict the outcome of someone's life based on how it started. We will all face hardships, no matter how we started out and killing someone is not the solution to actual or perceived hardship.

Ironically, the majority of sexual assault victims who become pregnant, feel they have no choice but to abort, even if they want to keep their child. Many also report feeling further victimized after an abortion. According to research (The Elliot Institute: www.afterabortion.org) 60 – 65% of

abortions are either forced or coerced, often with the threat of violence or death for refusing to comply.

Rape and incest are grave injustices that no one should ever have to endure, but if a woman does become pregnant from sexual assault, the question becomes: “How should a civilized society treat an innocent human being who reminds someone of a painful event like sexual assault? There are always 3 people involved in these situations: the perpetrator, the victim and the unborn child. Which one is acceptable to execute and why is the child consistently the acceptable sacrifice for the crime? Would you find it acceptable to kill a child who reminds someone of a painful marriage and subsequent divorce?

Hardship never justifies violence and the violence of rape/incest doesn't justify the subsequent violence of abortion. Let's punish the perpetrator, not the victim and the innocent bystander. Incidentally, there is no such thing as a “kinder/gentler” abortion method to abort children conceived through sexual assault, or any children, for that matter.

We are rightly outraged by the abuse of children who are already born so why do we tolerate, promote and even celebrate abortion, the ultimate form of child abuse?

Abortion doesn't empower women. It devalues, demeans and marginalizes them and their unborn children. In fact, the sex trafficking industry could not survive without abortion, since it's the most effective way to keep its victims “in service” and

therefore, profitable. It is hypocritical to condemn sex trafficking and condone abortion. Abortion has long been the favored tool for covering sexual sin and unfettered sex and greed are at its foundation.

Ronald Reagan said: *"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born."*

As legislators, if you are unwilling to support laws that protect our most vulnerable citizens (and future voters, by the way) – the unborn – how can you be trusted to protect the rights of those you represent, who are already born?

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 23.