

Testimony of Meg Perez
Proponent of The Heartbeat Bill, Senate Bill 23
Ohio House Health Committee, April 2, 2019

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Boyd & members of the committee, my name is Meg Perez. I am a Wife, Mother, and Business Owner. I am also the Regional Coordinator of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign for the Cincinnati area. At Silent No More, we focus on reaching out to those who are hurting after abortion and encouraging them to attend healing programs. We also work to educate the public on why abortion is harmful by sharing our own stories. I am grateful for this time to share mine. This is my Truth.

Before I begin, I want to make something very clear... Most of you today have never walked in my shoes. In fact, you may have a preconceived notion of what could lead a woman to choose abortion or what type of women would. My hope is that you listen carefully to my story and receive Truth from it and that you see the horror of abortion, as well as the aftershock that women like me live with for the rest of our lives.

My abortion took place in 2007 at the Women's Med Center in Cincinnati. I was 41 years old and in a relationship when I learned that I was just about 6 weeks pregnant. I was excited and terrified. I had just gone through a painful divorce one year prior after losing 4 Babies to miscarriage and now was a single Mom to a beautiful 3 year old Boy. Unfortunately, the Father was not happy about the pregnancy and he insisted that I have an abortion. He refused to help me physically, emotionally or financially. He was adamant that I "could not have this Baby". I felt trapped. I would later learn that being pressured into an abortion is not an uncommon thing.. more than 50% of women who abort felt pressured or bullied into the decision.

I was about 7 weeks pregnant when the abortion clinic worker took me to an exam room, asked me a few questions and completed an ultra sound. I had plenty of experience with those machines.. considering my history of miscarriages. I knew what a heartbeat sounded like, but I never heard one that day. I later learned that the clinic workers turn the volume down on the ultrasound machines so that the women do not change their mind. THIS should tell you how powerful the heartbeat is in changing the trajectory of a woman's choice.

I was convinced that abortion was the only way because no other option was presented. I returned to the Women's Med Center the first week of July. Now I want you to walk this with me.. The waiting room was full of girls waiting on abortions at 8am that morning. They took my money for the procedure and they took me back.. I put on a hospital gown and was taken to the room where my Child would die.

My abortionist, Martin Haskell, walked in.. making this the first time I had ever met him. Haskell is best known for his admitted claim to fame of inventing partial birth abortion. As I sat in the stirrups, I was drowning in regret and my Soul was immediately tortured by my decision. I felt as if I was chained to that chair and the pain and regret might suffocate me. But I had no advocate in that room. My tears began to fall. The abortionist turned on the suction equipment, the powerful vacuum that would be used to remove my Child from my womb. It is a sound that I will never forget. Ever. It was the sound of my Daughter dying.

I began to cry harder as the procedure began.. A violent search of my womb to locate my Child with a beating heart. It was incredibly physically painful.. worse than natural childbirth. I began to squirm on the table. The abortionist got angry, violently grabbing my legs and shouted at me to quote "Shut Up". I felt I deserved this. During the struggle, there was a profound moment when I had an acute awareness of my Daughter's Soul leaving the room. And, as if in a cartoon, a black cloud moved over me. Guilt. Shame. How I survived the next 6 years is supernaturally all God. I struggled with a fatal guilt, magnified by the fact that I am also a Birth Mother, having made adoption plans for my first born at the age of 19. I knew better. I tried everything to numb my pain. Nothing worked. My abortion almost killed me. And there was nothing left of me for my 3 year old Son. He needed me and I could not be emotionally or spiritually present for him. I was dead inside.

Please do not just listen to me. Hear me. I will not let my Daughter's death be in vain. She would be 11 years old today. I live with the consequences. Literally. I am reminded of who she is and that she's not here. In fact, it's a thing.. Science shows that during pregnancy, women actually exchange cells with their child. It's called

fetal-maternal Microchimerism. And, get this, our Child's cells/DNA remain mostly in two parts of our bodies.. our brain and our heart. It is an unbreakable bond for Mother and her living child, but when you have aborted your Child, you are left with an internal reminder of who is missing.

In all of the counseling I have done w/ post-abortive Moms, I have never had one say that they were glad they had an abortion. There is always debilitating regret and effects on their lives.. addiction, eating disorders, abusive relationships. My mission is that my story will change just one heart. Will it be yours?