I, Katelyn Neil, would like to express my support for this piece of legislation, because of the pain and suffering it can prevent. I hold many positions within our community. I speak out as a mother representing many other mothers who could not be here today, specifically because they have aborted their children and do not publicly claim the title of mother. The goal of this bill is to protect the innocent lives that are at risk for abortion. Therefore, those against it support the ideology that somehow it is a solution for mothers. However, of all the women I know who have shared with me their abortion experience; friends, fellow veterans, acquaintances, they refer to it as though it was not a solution, but rather a regret… a regret they had no warning about.

Who is protecting these women from a life of regret and shame? Because biologically, ending the presence of your child, that does register emotionally. It also perplexes the mind for years to come, even if a woman agrees, at some point, it was the right choice or that it must be done, choosing an abortion offers a trap, a false ideology of a solution, a life of what if and regret that plagues their progress through life, future relationships, productivity, success and ultimately their contribution to society.

My claim, that emotionally a woman is plagued following an abortion, is supported by multiple personal stories, one which was even concerning an abortion resulting from a rape, when she thought it would be a solution, to this day wishes something different, for that child to be alive, because it was a piece of her. This account was told to me by a woman in 2010 while initially working on a similar piece of legislation. Multiple people reached out while working to pass the bill. It is a repetitive story that I heard, a different woman each time, reaching out for love, forgiveness, support. I often think of the ones not brave enough to speak out, how many more there must be. It is also supported throughout personal and professional growth and development literature pieces which repeatedly explain reasons people prevent, stop or sabotage their own successes throughout life.

Jack Canfeild has committed to training 1 million leaders to teach, throughout the world, other humans how to excel and progress through life, through our society, successfully. The #1 drawback to success individuals face is the untrue stories they tell themselves about themselves. These stories paralyze the action one would take to achieve success. Think of post abortive women, we are not offering them a true story that could help them heal and move towards a productive life, though some post abortive women have been able to pick up the pieces and move on, they are still hurting. Think of the false story they must now live with. The false story creates a roadblock for the majority of post abortive women. The heartbeat bill, now might not seem like a big impact, but once passed, we will gradually see the continued shift away from killing and into a reality of life, support, love and hope, because where there is life, there is hope.

Reducing and potentially eliminating abortion through education and cultural shift is already occurring. To legislate protection for women is accepted by the silent majority. I want for the committee to understand that women want to protect each other and this is welcomed. Sometimes when under the microscope, we do not see the power or implications of our actions, but if we take the time to zoom out and realize our individual impact on the world around us, we can understand our own power. Now is a moment for the power of your individual vote, your individual decision to protect, both women and children of our future.

Please understand that I am an individual who once thoughtfully considered abortion during an unplanned pregnancy. I come to you objectively, having lived on both sides of the argument. Our culture must believe that life will always win.

Katelyn Neil

Dublin, Ohio