

H.B. 69 – Testimony in Favor of the Heartbeat Bill – March 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: my name is Lauran Bunting and I am testifying in FAVOR of H.B. 69, the Heartbeat Bill.

Let me begin by quickly telling you about a young woman I know. She's a regular volunteer at the local YWCA women's shelter in Dayton Ohio. Last June she donated over 50 toys to Dayton Children's cancer unit. And for the past two Christmases she has helped sponsor single moms to make sure that their kids wake up to gifts under the tree. She is constantly giving away the little bit of money she is able to save up, whether that be to a man standing on the side of the road looking for help or to a family member in need. She has a passion for Jesus Christ and has been known to tell random strangers about the Gospel. She loves life and believes all life is precious. Especially her own.

You see, ladies and gentleman, this young woman I have described to you was conceived in rape. Her life is just as valuable as yours and mine. You see, what is more amazing is that this young woman I speak about is only five years old. And the reason I know so much about this young woman and her accomplishments is because I am that young woman's mama.

On September 26, 2008 at the age of 17 years old I was forced into a closet and raped by my boyfriend. And it wasn't long after that I discovered I was pregnant. Though what I went through was a horrific experience and through that became pregnant, I knew abortion wasn't the solution. Abortion wasn't going to erase my rape, abortion wasn't going to erase my memory, and abortion wouldn't erase the pain that I felt because of what happened to me. But I do know what it would have done. Abortion would have caused extreme pain, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Abortion would have either ripped my daughter to pieces or burnt her small body beyond recognition. Abortion would have erased all the joy I have experienced in life had I not chosen life for my daughter. Abortion would have erased all the blessings experienced by the lives of the individuals my daughter has touched. And unfortunately I know all too well how abortion tears people apart physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Because of abortion I will never get to meet my niece or nephew or even my cousin this side of heaven because of abortion. Every life has a destiny. Abortion destroys destinies. Abortion destroys blessings. Abortion destroys hope and joy. And abortion destroys life.

Abortion doesn't "fix the problem" it only makes it worse. Especially for girls like myself who find themselves pregnant from rape. Society has brainwashed people into thinking that no one should ever have to carry a rape baby. What society has done has caused more harm than good. Because the mother who is actually brave enough to choose life for her child and choose to parent that child is many times labeled a "liar", because who would want to look in the face of that child everyday if it indeed was created by a monster? Society has made abortion to appear to be an easy out. Abortion, like suicide, is a permanent decision...you can't reverse it. A life is ended. A heartbeat is stopped. As we all know in any medical situation the presence of life is determined by a beating heart. That is why this bill is so vital. A beating heart always has and always will signify life.

Being raped is not a curse. Being conceived by rape is not a curse either. And if I had one thing to say to the individual who raped me it would be this:

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20

And that is exactly why I am here today...to save many lives. But unfortunately I can only do so much. Now it is up to all of you. So Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: I urge you to think of Isabella every time you feel **YOUR** heart beat today. I urge **YOU** to think of all those whose heartsbeats will be erased forever if **YOU** choose to let this bill fail...again. Life is not a mistake. Life is a gift. As we prepare to enter this Easter season, the season of new life, you have the opportunity to give the ultimate gift, the gift of life to many children whose destinies would other wise be ended if you choose once again to let this bill fail.

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