

Testimony of Leyandria Murray in Favor of H.B. 69, the Heartbeat Bill
March 10, 2015
Ohio House Committee on Community and Family Advancement

I was a senior in high school when I decided to Google my name. After searching several pages of my online existence I came across an article written about me in the Detroit Free Press. Before then I never knew where I stood on the ProLife Issue until I read this horrific article describing my near death experience.

The article told a story of a 14 year old girl who had gotten pregnant by a 17 year old boy. Although my parents were in a consensual relationship at the time, legally it would have been considered statutory rape. When my grandmother found out that my mother was pregnant with me, she gave her an ultimatum. She could either have an abortion and stay at home until she was 18, or she would be kicked out and be forced to take care of me on her own. My mother pleaded with her but my grandmother had made it very clear that she couldn't afford to take care of my mother and new a baby.

Just because I would have been a financial burden, she wanted me dead and there were no laws in place to save my life. It's unfortunate that my grandmother would ever consider abortion as an option, however in the America that we live in, abortion is an option that many women choose. All of the innocent lives taken each day because someone feels like a child is too much of a burden. There are too many young women who are forced to be homeless, without family and even worse without their own babies because abortion is legal.

This is why I spend so much time speaking to others about my life. I let them know that the decision to give life is the best decision my mother has ever made. Because although we were homeless and forced to sleep in shelters all over Detroit, I was still given the chance at life. I was given the opportunity to go to college and to graduate. I was given the opportunity to speak with other women and save the lives of unborn babies. I have even been given the opportunity to be the Godmother of one of those babies. I believe that every unborn baby deserves the same opportunity as me. The opportunity to live and it is up to our American Government to make sure that happens.

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