

H.B. 69, Heartbeat Bill Testimony: March 10, 2015 – Community & Family Advancement

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, for this unique opportunity and honor to speak on behalf of post-abortive women and their own post-abortive children. It is a privilege to represent the millions and millions of women that have and continue to be victimized by this slaughter of human life called abortion.

This is a call to action, because abortion not only kills an unborn child - but also creates a generational culture of death within families and communities at large.

My name is Reverend Katherine Marple; I am a wife, a mom, a grandmom, an Ordained minister of the Gospel, Advocate and Activist – but I am also a sibling to an aborted child, an aunt to an aborted child, a cousin to an aborted child, ***I am also Post Abortive*** and a grandmother to my own aborted grandchild. Every one of these children deserved and had a right to life, a right to have their own family and a right to serve their communities.

Abortion has been a part of my life since 1978 when my own mother, *someone I trusted more than anyone in the world*, forced me to abort my unborn child when I was just 17 years old. However, if there had been a Heartbeat LAW, my child would have survived. Conversely, I would also have my brother or sister, my cousin, my niece or nephew, and my grandchild today. FIVE members of my own family did not have a choice or a voice or a law that would have protected them from being aborted.

Because there was no Heartbeat LAW, abortion and loss will always be a part of my life and quite possibly a part of yours. Abortion has no respect for anyone; this tragedy can strike anyone and any family because there is no Heartbeat LAW to provide the proof of unborn life in the womb. A beating heart proves that a separate person who is within their mother's womb is alive, not a mass of indeterminate cells. Abortion has made a culture of death throughout at least 3 generations of my family and my story is not unique.

If my mother heard the heartbeat of her unborn grandchild, she MAY have relented and allowed me to have my baby – or not. However, if there had been a Heartbeat LAW there would have been no questions; my baby would be alive today – perhaps a woman married with children of her own, part of our community. I will never know that because there was no Heartbeat Bill or Heartbeat law. When the Heartbeat Bill passes, thousands upon thousands of children will not know abortion death or the culture it produces.

I ask you to help save the lives of unborn Ohioans, which will preserve and protect generations to come.

I thank the committee for allowing me to testify this day to save the lives of unborn Ohioans and to give real hope to their mothers and family.

**Rev. Katherine Marple
Centerville, Ohio**