

Proponent Testimony - H.B. 69, Heartbeat Bill - by Travon Clifton

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Travon Clifton. I am 40 years old, a wife of almost 5 years, and a mother of two beautiful children ages three and one years old. I could go on with more titles and accomplishments but these by far outweigh them all--except one...that I am a child of God.

This is the one that matters the most because I was created in God's image as is the rest of humanity. Regardless of my conception--I was conceived during a rape by an acquaintance of my mother when she was 19 years old--this truth does not change nor does my value. To strengthen my argument, if you were to put a ultrasound or a sonogram of two babies side-by-side, one who was conceived from loving parents and one who was conceived out of a violent and hateful crime, you would not be able to tell the difference. You would only know that there was a living, breathing human being waiting to experience life to the full.

Now many would say because a child conceived in this manner is begins in painful circumstances that it's only merciful or somehow compassionate to end his or her life. Many think that by inflicting pain on the child through abortion that you are somehow "saving" that child from further pain. But I beg you all to see how flawed that thinking is by first considering that that's not only illogical, inhumane but it is very un-American. We are a country that has a sordid past and yet through some of the ugly truth of America some of the most beautiful things have been created. We are a melting pot of immigrants; people who have triumphed over bad beginnings, unbelievably rough circumstances and many still found a way to be happy, productive and flourish in life. Tell me, whose life has not been touched by pain and suffering anyway?

I'm sharing my story because I know we all learn from each other when we listen to others who have gone through experiences that we thought we could never live through. We show someone that there is hope on the other side of their condition, their human experience. That's why I am a pro-life speaker with Save the 1. That's why I am a spokesperson for the campaign, the Compassion Project, with Right to Life of Michigan (www.rtl.org). I put a face to the issue of conceived in rape and all the exceptions that are presented in bills such as this one and I ask, isn't every child created worthy of love and protection? Why should the child conceived in rape be treated any less? Please stop the discrimination against the child conceived in rape and help to protect all life!

This is why I urge all of you consider my story and those like mine when you vote YES on HB69. Thank you for your consideration and may God be with you.

Sincerely,

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