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Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 155
Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 155.

On October 1st I found out I was pregnant with my second child. I had just begun my first year of nursing school, my 3-year-old son had just been diagnosed with mild to moderate autism and I had left my spouse who had a drug and alcohol problem and was mentally and emotionally abusive.

I remember when I found out I was pregnant. I had just got out of class and got back home. I remember walking up the hill to my car and being out of breath which was strange. I ran to the store and grabbed 3 pregnancy tests. I took them all and of course they were positive. I began to sob on my bathroom floor. I didn't know what to think, I went back and forth from wanting to keep my baby to trying to focus on the life I already struggled with at times. I was a single mom to my son from the beginning and was not sure how I would feel being a single mom to 2 kids while attending nursing school and learning about my son's new diagnosis. All I could think was my life was already so hectic as it was.

On October 6th, 2018 I went to the hospital for blood work and an ultrasound. They confirmed that I was 6 weeks pregnant. The doctor then came into my room to discuss my options once again. I really was unsure of my decision, part of me wanted to focus on my new goals in life and another part of me wanted to keep this precious baby. It was later on that day that I decided I would take the first abortion pill. I wanted to be able to invest all my time in my schooling and helping my son with his diagnosis. I immediately began to cry after I took the pill. I remember sitting in my car in the parking lot staring not knowing what I had just done.

It was thanksgiving weekend in Ontario, I was driving to my mom's house on October 7th crying the entire drive. I felt horrible. How could I want to abort my beautiful baby? The life that was growing inside of me. I remember having a conversation with my mother while I was sobbing

with such regret about my decision. She had suggested that maybe there was some way to reverse it so I began searching on google “took first abortion pill”, “regret taking first abortion pill” and I came across the website abortionpillreversal.com. I then called the number and spoke to someone. It was a weekend and I was told by the lady that I would receive a phone call back from a nurse. Those few minutes waiting was the longest of my life. I just kept thinking “please I hope someone could help me, could help my beautiful baby”. My phone then rang and the nurse was on the phone, she was so polite and helped reassure me that I was not alone in this situation. She gave me all the information that I needed and called local hospitals. That day I missed my thanksgiving dinner so that I could go to the hospital and start my progesterone treatment.

I was followed closely by doctors throughout my pregnancy and had many ultrasounds. I can admit there were times in the beginning where I did have some scares. I was always scared I would lose my daughter, every little symptom made me worry. I used to spend days in bed thinking of the worst and when I stopped my progesterone treatment at 18 weeks, I was worried that it would be the end, but I carried my daughter full term. She was born a day after her due date.

My daughter Arya Alexandria is the most amazing gift. I call her my miracle baby. I am forever grateful that I found that website that day and received treatment as soon as I could. She brings so much joy to mine and my sons life, she truly is amazing. When I look at her, I just can't believe the journey we have been through. I can gladly say she was always wanted, even when I had my doubts, I always wanted my sweet baby girl. I hope that we can find courage and ways to help support more women in these situations. I believe everyone should be educated on the reversal process because it truly is an amazing thing. So many babies have been saved by this process and by saving babies you could also be saving a mom.