

Exhibit No. 13
Date 3-10-05
Bill No. HB 324

Susan N Gliko
Senate Judiciary Committee
HB 324
8 AM in room 303
March 10, 2005

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Gliko and I am a post-abortive woman and also the state coordinator of Rachel's Vineyard Retreats; a post-abortion healing ministry. I am here today to ask you to vote no on HB 324.

Sidewalk counselors are a woman's last chance to be spared from an unwanted and in some cases even unsafe abortion.

On a post-abortion aftercare support group that I help to moderate we were talking about this very topic of sidewalk counseling. Many post-abortive women now sidewalk counsel because they themselves were not fully informed of the devastation that often comes with an abortion decision.

Abortion advocates wrongly blame women lamenting and distressing about abortion on pro-life "fanatics" who peacefully sidewalk counsel. The women lamenting, are lamenting over their unwanted abortion appointment.

As women who have been there – done that – and hated it -- we understand the frame of mind that many of these women are in. On our discussion group we were brain storming how to break the spiritual abortion; or what we call the "zone,"-- which is a type of frenzied determination we each needed to be able to walk through those death doors and go through with the actual abortion

Sarah is the woman who started the discussion after her own first unsuccessful attempt at sidewalk counseling. She was trying to inform women and young girls about the truth of what abortion has done to her – *Sarah became pregnant at 23 and her strongest desire was to erase the action and the result from her life, and move on. She sought an abortion as a means to that end.*

Prior to the appointment, she received counsel in ways to say goodbye to her child and prior to the abortion, she thought she would not have any problem "moving on," as she thought it was what she wanted. The moment the procedure started, she felt the pain (physical and spiritual) that having this so-called tissue removed from her body brings. Once the abortion starts, it cannot be stopped or reversed. After the procedure, she was expected to get over it – and go back to her old life as if nothing happened. Abortion did not bring the peace that she expected. She felt like a stranger to her own world.

The physical results of her abortion are many. perforated uterus, , ceased menstrual cycles for about a year, the inability to carry a pregnancy to term, weight gain; Breast Cancer (ABC link) Radical double Mastectomy, Chemotherapy, Radiation, Lymphodema

and Hysterectomy; not to mention the psychological effects of Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS).

Sarah's is just one story of a multitude and this story is shared with her permission.

For my own abortion story I would like to say that I went against everything that I believed in. I had worked myself into that frenzied determination; a spiritual abortion – however, there was no one there outside the abortion clinic praying. I am sure if there would have been I would not have had my abortion because I didn't really want an abortion – I felt I had no "choice."

Everyone should agree that we should protect women from being forced into *unwanted* abortions. According to studies done by David Reardon, Ph.D of the Elliot Institute 60% of all abortions are primarily the result of women submitting to the demands of boyfriends, husbands, parents, employers, doctors, or other people with influence over their lives.

Most all of the post-abortive people I know think everything should be done to inform and protect women and that is why many of them do sidewalk counseling. Another post-abortive woman named Lauren puts it best when she says, *"In my opinion, abortion is like any other big decision. You wouldn't go and buy a car without knowing about the gas mileage and how it compares to other cars, so why would you go and have an abortion without knowing all the risks involved and thinking about other options you might have? It just doesn't make sense for clinics to lie to women – if car dealerships did that we would be up in arms within minutes!"*

In conclusion I would like to say that sidewalk counselors, many of whom are post-abortive themselves, are a woman's last chance of learning about the possible devastation that comes with an abortion decision and also a last chance to get abortion alternatives.

Making sidewalk counseling a crime only protects the abortion profiteers.

This bill needs to be opposed by this committee because it is a very pro-woman thing to do.

Thank you.

Silent No More Montana
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