

St. Catherine Family Health Care Clinic & Pregnancy Resource Center

Marybeth Adams, MSN, APRN
Family Nurse Practitioner
Testimony on Senate Bill 46
Senate Judiciary Committee
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Mr./Madame Chair, Members of the Committee:

My name is Marybeth Adams. I am a Family Nurse Practitioner in Belgrade. I operate a low cost family health clinic and pregnancy resource center. I would like to speak in support of the statement that protection of the unborn is a compelling state interest for the following reasons:

1. Disregard for the life of the unborn is a civil rights issue in that a group of people (pro choice) exercises oppression over a weaker group (unborn) by denying them the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as guaranteed by the United State Constitution. Minorities are disproportionately singled out as being dispensable.
2. That life begins at conception is a biological fact, no longer disputed within the scientific community. It is not a religious or moral opinion.
3. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the number of Medicaid abortions in the state of Montana is unknown. Taxpayers do not even have access to how much they pay each year for abortions.
4. Montana does not license nor regulate abortion clinics, failing to ensure that even minimal health and safety standards are met for the mother and the unborn child. Additionally, Montana is the only state which allows PAs to perform abortions.
5. Increased interest in research concerning abortion related trauma to the mother suggests abortion is dangerous to a woman's psychological health. Mental health costs are an enormous financial burden to the State of Montana.
6. Low birth rates threaten stability of state economies as smaller numbers of young workers struggle to support burgeoning older populations. We will need these unborn in the work force.
7. Protection of the unborn includes diligent prenatal care for all pregnant women to increase the chances of healthy newborns.

In my daily work, I offer options and alternatives to protect the unborn. I have only seen positive results and have yet to hear a mother wish she had chosen otherwise. Sociologically, psychologically, medically, and financially, protection of the unborn is a certainly a compelling state interest.