

Megan Petty
415 Gopher Lane
Marion, MT 59925
406-871-2925

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

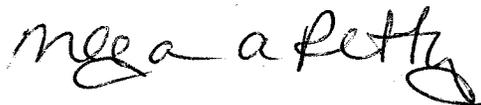
My name is Megan Petty and I reside in Marion Montana. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 280. The reason I am here is that I have a personal testimony of having an abortion in 1974 at the age of sixteen. After suspecting I might be pregnant my boyfriend and I went down the street from my High School to an Open Door Clinic and got a free pregnancy test. I found out I was about 10 weeks pregnant and they suggested that I get an abortion and told me that it was no big deal and that the fetus was only a blob of flesh.

I wanted to have that child and my boyfriend and I decided that we would get married and have the baby. I told my Mother and she said that I was not going to marry that boy and that I was not going to have that child. She also told that it was just a blob of flesh and that she would pay for and take me to the abortionist. I did not know that my Childs heart was already beating, that there were hands and feet and that my child already had form, human form. If I had only seen the truth, that I was carrying a child, I believe that I would have had the strength to go against my Mother and keep my child. Unfortunately that would be the only child I would ever carry, not by choice, but because I could no longer get pregnant. I developed a bacterial infection that would destroy my tubes and take one of my ovaries.

I am asking that women be given an informed choice that they need not suffer as I have, the least we can do give for them is to give them an opportunity to see for themselves. This bill is about giving accurate information to women to make a choice that will affect them the rest of their lives. That choice must be made from a properly focused image of their child by a trained Ultrasound technician.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of an informed choice that was not available to me.

Sincerely,



Megan Petty