

Susan Gliko
House Judiciary Committee
HB - 544 - 8:00 am in room 137 - February 18, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Susan Gliko. I coordinate post-abortion healing through the ministry name of Rachel's Hope. I am immersed in the realities of the aftermath of abortion, for myself personally and for the hundreds of others I have come to know through the healing ministries that I am involved in.

As abortion patients we were told to beware of false and misleading information aimed at dissuading us from choosing abortion. We were assured that abortion is safer than childbirth; that we would feel relief and our problem would be solved, allowing us to go on with our lives.

Many of us felt lied to and ill prepared for the barrage of emotional fallout that followed our abortions. Some have found the emotional pain following an abortion more than they could live with. An example of someone who committed suicide after an abortion is Stacy Zallie. She had a secret abortion at the age of 20. Shortly after her abortion she sought psychiatric help. She ended therapy after only 3 months. Not long after her 21st birthday, she took her own life.

Stacy's parents are convinced that if Stacy had been better informed about what she might expect following the abortion, both physically and or emotionally, and if she had been able to share her grief in a safe, supportive environment, she would still be here today.

Women are suffering from avoidable physical and psychological complications that may have been prevented or minimized if the proper pre-abortion screening standards had been met. Just as with any other medical procedure, women contemplating abortion deserve an individualized risk profile, not one size fits all counseling.

In closing I am asking you do pass HB - 544 because it removes legal obstacles which typically make it difficult or impossible for women to hold her abortion provider liable for avoidable injuries which are a result of negligent pre-abortion screening and counseling.

Thank you,
Susan Gliko
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