

Thursday February 4th, 2021

Testimony – Senate Judiciary Committee

HB 136 – Establish Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Good morning Chair and members of the committee, my name is Kaitlyn Ruch, K-A-I-T-L-Y-N- R-U-C-H, I am 16 years old and a junior at Helena High School.

Today I am here on behalf of Pro-life Helena and Students for Life. I am the President of Helena Students for Life, a chapter of Students for Life of America, the largest Pro-Life student movement in the United States. I alongside many other pro-life youth here in our beautiful state rise in strong support of life-saving pro-life legislation such as HB 136, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

My little brother Luke and I were both adopted when we were born. Adoption gave us the chance at life that 42.7 million children did not receive in our country in 2020 alone. Some of these 42.7 million babies were capable of feeling pain when they were killed.

The thought that an unborn child can be intentionally killed within their mother's womb when they are capable of feeling pain, is heartbreaking. Not only is it heartbreaking, but it is absolutely unethical. At 20 weeks of pregnancy, a baby in the womb will react to stimuli that we would consider painful if applied to an adult human being. If a pre-born baby can feel pain, then they are indisputably alive and deserving of protection.

Please, protect our most vulnerable. I urge you to vote YES on HB 136 to ensure that unborn children capable of feeling pain are not tortured and subjected to feeling the pain of cruel and inhumane abortions. Thank you for your time.