

Friday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Testimony – Senate Judiciary Committee

HB 140 – Requiring the provision of information before the performance of an  
abortion

Good morning Chair and members of the committee. My name is Kaitlyn Ruch K-A-I-T-L-Y-N- R-U-C-H. 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.

In our culture today, abortion has been dehumanized. We have been taught by the abortion industry and the pro-abortion movement that an unborn child is “Just a clump of cells” and that “It is not even a baby yet”. These statements are simply not true. According to information about fetal development provided by Students for Life of America, the heart of a pre-born baby begins to beat near the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of pregnancy, brainwave activity begins around the 6<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, and by the 20<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, or possibly even earlier, the unborn child can feel pain.

The most common argument I hear from the pro-abortion movement is “my body, my choice”. This bill is very “pro-choice”. It is giving women the choice to view their ultrasound and hear the heartbeat of their baby. They are not required to say yes to these things; they are simply given the choice.

Dr. Joseph Randall, a former abortionist stated that women seeking abortion “*are never allowed to look at the ultrasound because we knew that if they so much as heard the heartbeat, they **wouldn’t** want to have an abortion.*”

There is a reason that abortion providers do not want to provide women with this opportunity to see their ultrasound and to hear the heartbeat of their child. They want to keep abortion thinkable and dehumanize it further. They are scared that women may choose life.

I strongly urge you to vote yes on House Bill 140 so that Montana women are supplied with the life changing information that this bill would provide. Thank you for letting me share my testimony with you and thank you for your time.

