

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

Testimony – Senate Judiciary Committee

HB 167 – Born Alive Infant Protection Act

Hello Chair and members of the committee, once again 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 local chapter of Students for Life of America.

This bill should not be controversial. A child that survives the terror of an abortion should be provided with the medical care he/she needs in order to recover from the trauma of a failed abortion and be brought into the world in a dignified manner. Killing a child after they are born alive is no longer abortion, it is infanticide.

Why should we deny these abortion survivors the same treatment that other babies who are born at a similar gestational age receive? Why do their lives have less value? As an incredibly lucky adoptee, I often must remind myself, the circumstances of your birth do not determine the value of your life. Life is precious and deserves protection.

The opposition will tell you we do not need this bill because “this doesn’t happen”, “babies do not survive abortions”. However, abortion survivors exist, and their very lives are a testament against the abortion industry.

This is why I stand in support of House Bill 167, and I urge you all to vote yes on this bill to protect future generations of Montanans. In 2022, when I will be 18 and can vote for the very first time, I hope to see this bill on the ballot so I can further express my support for it. Thank you for your time.