

Dear Senator Serafini:

Thank you for sponsoring SB357 Pain Capable Act. I ran and was elected as a Pro-life member of the Carroll County Central Committee. Politically, my goal is to make Life issues the top priority in the Republican Party. We cannot have any other "political" issues until we first have Life.

To that end, here are my comments re: SB357. Please feel free to have you staff put said comments in the proper format for review by the Finance Committee as time is short to submit written testimony.

I have read SB664 and reviewed the Fiscal Note and support SB664 for the following reasons:

1. I am a mother of one daughter and grandmother of three grandchildren who reside Maryland. My daughter was an unplanned "crisis" pregnancy. I was pressured by my then husband and by my doctor to have an abortion in 1976 which even though Roe was all the rage for pushing abortion on young women, I was told abortion was illegal in Missouri, but legal across the river in Illinois. I was entering my second trimester of pregnancy and the fact that I was told abortion was still illegal in Missouri gave me the courage not to be pressured into having an abortion that late by going "across the river."
2. The daughter born of that unplanned pregnancy was the only child I ever had. I became a single mother when my daughter was just one year old and spent the next ten years getting three college degrees, including a law degree from the University of Maryland and trying to get child support. I started my own business and was always so grateful that there was some legal cut-off to abortion in the state that I lived at the time to withstand the tremendous pressure I was under to abort.
3. Abortion is so normalized today that women seem to barely feel they have a real choice NOT to terminate their pregnancies. Everyone knows that the majority of abortions are occurring within the first trimester, so passing SB357 does not in any way impair a woman's "right " to have an abortion during the time period when most women actually do have abortions.
4. SB357 is a reasonable and necessary restriction on abortion and most probably would be rare as a late 2nd trimester abortions supposedly are. There are more than ample safeguards in the legislation to protect women's reasonable access to abortion, their safety, which decreases as gestation increases, balanced by the humanity and pain capable science of limiting abortion after 22 weeks gestation (20 weeks postfertilization).

There is an adequate definition section to the bill and reasonable accountability for doctors so that women are not unnecessarily pressured into abortion. Choice should be that, a real choice, not pressure and fear and profit. The intent of "legalizing" abortion

was to make it safe, legal and rare. Legality seems to be the only criteria no matter how late and developed the baby is. What happened to "safe" and especially "rare."

5. Science has come a long way and 2nd trimester and late term abortions no longer sit well with many pro-choice folks I know. There surely must come a time when the humanity of the child outweighs any elective abortion. HB357 appears to have all those bases covered. The costs associated with SB357 are worth protecting the life of a child at 22 weeks gestation.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and I hope for a favorable report on SB357.

Sincerely,
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