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To: Anna Borgerding <anna.borgerding@house.mn.gov>; Amanda Rudolph <Amanda.Rudolph@house.mn.gov>

Subject: PRO ACT Written Testimony

January 9, 2023

Dear MN State Legislators:

Please do not pass the PRO ACT as it codifies the right to an abortion up to birth. I am a mother of a young man who was born a preemie at 31 weeks. He was as much a baby as a child born at 40 weeks. I was attaining my MBA at the Carlson School of Management (which I ultimately did) and I was 38 years old when I had him and I remember people making comments like I was too old to have a child and how dare I have a child at my age. We were even told by the ultrasound doctor that our son had a fissure on his brain and would probably have Down's Syndrome. Turns out, he's graduating towards the top of his class at St. Thomas Academy and plans on studying Environmental Science in college. Maybe he'll be the person to uncover a way to avoid climate change and save the world! And all because I gave birth to him and my husband, his Dad, helped me during the pregnancy and afterwards when I had postpartum depression and anxiety. I was mentally ill for more than a decade, but got better and part of the reason is because I had this wonderful little boy who was a joy to raise. He is a great kid and has given us hardly any trouble. Thanks be to God!

I would also like to inform you that I was hospitalized a few times for my depression. I went into the hospital willingly. One time when I was in the hospital, I was part of a little prayer group. I had always suspected a correlation between depression/suicide attempts and abortion. So, I asked the 5 ladies that were in the prayer group if they had had an abortion and if their suicide/depression thoughts started after the abortion. Three of the ladies said they had had an abortion and their depression started after the abortion. By providing abortions in Minnesota, you are endangering the lives of women. While initially they may have feelings of relief, the long-term mental health consequences can be debilitating and even deadly. What will probably eventually happen is these women will gang together and sue the state of Minnesota for approving a procedure that caused their mental health issues. This means your constituents will be paying taxes towards helping these women recover. States are created to protect people, when they do not, there can be legal consequences to the lack of protection. You may think you have the power, but eventually people will come their senses and the law will change. At that point, you, as legislators, will be responsible for the destruction you voted in – much as former Nazis and those who aided them are paying the price today for what they did 80 years ago. It's also important to consider what your legacy is. One of my great great Grandfathers fought to free African-Americans from slavery and we still talk about him today. Same goes for my Grandfather who fought on the Pacific front in WWII. In our family, we regard these ancestors as heroes and we still remember them. Wouldn't you like your great-great grandchildren to talk about you as a hero a hundred years from now because you stood up for what is right? Be not afraid! Stick up to political pressure! Be brave!

Another reason PRO ACT should not be passed is a very practical one that hits our businesses and communities very hard. 65 million people have been aborted since 1972. That means about 1/3 of my son's generation and the millennial generation has been aborted. These are people who would be around to take over the jobs that the baby boomers are retiring from. That would mean that we would have enough people to hold jobs that are being vacated and we would not have a worker shortage as we do today: there would be plenty of people to work in our nursing homes, hospitals, care centers, police forces, and all those other jobs where we are now experiencing a worker shortage. Quite frankly, abortion does not make business sense. Abortion causes higher wages, fewer workers, fewer minds to solve the world's problems, along with the mental and emotional devastation the biological mother and father often feel later on.

Thank you very much for reading my letter and God bless!

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