



Testimony of Catherine R. Blaeser  
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Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

To the Health Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
January 12, 2023

Thank you, Chair Liebling and members of the Committee for this opportunity to share our thoughts about HF 91..

My name is Catherine Blaeser, Co-Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.

This bill would repeal Minnesota Statutes 145.423, which protects the life of an infant born alive after an attempted abortion, would alter our society from one of compassion to one of cruelty. That law states a premise of fundamental human compassion: that if a baby is born alive, even if born after an attempted abortion, that he or she is a full member of the human community who deserves our compassion and our care.

Although Minnesota passed our protective law earlier, many states began passing Born-Alive protective bills in the early 2000s after a horrific incident at a hospital in Illinois made national news.

Jill Stanek, a registered nurse in the hospital's labor and delivery department, reported that she was asked to set aside a baby to die. The hospital was doing what was then called "live-birth abortions," in which delivery was induced of a living baby who was then intentionally left to die a slow and painful death.

Nurse Stanek wrote: "It was not uncommon for a live aborted baby to linger for an hour or two or even longer . . . one of these babies lives for almost an entire eight-hour shift. Some of the babies aborted were healthy . . ."

The suffering that Nurse Stanek saw these babies endure led to her becoming a pro-life advocate, and many states, hearing of the horror of these babies being left to die, passed legislation to protect their lives – and to have a society of compassion, not brutality. Whether babies are left to die because it was intended as part of an abortion, or because they were one of fortunate survivors, every one of these precious babies deserves our protection and love. Please vote no on HF 91. Thank you.