

January 23, 2022

I am a registered nurse and practicing attorney in the state of Minnesota. My experience as a nurse included working in the newborn intensive care (NICU), at a large hospital in the Twin Cities.

There are many anecdotes I could share that demonstrate the human rights violations and deceptions promoted by abortion, but I will share just one that has stuck with me for many years.

When I was a new nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, I was asked to attend an abortion, (which would be a normal practice for certain pregnancies, since it was possible the baby could be born alive at a certain stage of development).

The mother was estimated to be around 23 weeks gestation (5 months pregnant), had been newly diagnosed with cancer, and had been told that to undergo cancer treatment, she must terminate her pregnancy.

At the time, this seemed entirely reasonable to me, so I agreed to attend the abortion on the off chance something didn't work out as planned.

The mother was sedated. Her baby boy was born alive. Due to the saline injection used as the method of abortion, he was very red, and burned over his entire body. It was unclear if he was actually 23 weeks along (5 months), or further along, to my knowledge, no ultrasound had been administered to confirm the gestational age or intrauterine position of the child, nor was any medical exam performed following his birth. I do know that he was breathing on his own without the assistance of oxygen or a ventilator, which suggests he was probably more than 23 weeks gestation. He had no need for resuscitation despite the attempt to end his life.

I was told to bring the baby to the newborn intensive care. I cared for "Baby Boy Doe." Not medical record was created. Baby Boy Doe's short life outside his mother's womb was unknown to his mother, who had been told "everything went just fine." He was never known as a living, breathing person on this earth.

He and I sat alone in the private room, as I held him in my arms. His little body was perfectly formed, and he held onto my finger as he slowly breathed for the next few hours. This is how I spent my shift that day, holding him, gazing at his perfect face, as he took his last breaths and passed to the next life.

What distinguished this situation from other similar situations that came before and after this one, was the fact that on this same date, in the adjacent room, another couple held their tiny baby boy. Their son had been born at 26 weeks (5 ½ months), and he was not expected to live. Despite all heroic efforts the team made, he did not survive. This unfortunately, was the sixth baby this couple had lost. They were crushed, and they had no living children.

As my experience in the NICU grew, I learned that the abortion described above was not something that needed to happen. I observed several mothers and babies over the following years, where the mothers had undergone chemotherapy during their pregnancies. The mothers came to visit—they lived. Their babies came to the NICU for monitoring and , the babies had no significant issues following exposure to chemotherapy.

This culture of promoting abortion goes unchecked, and the current bill would further promote a culture that accepts that an unborn child as a non-person. They are inferior, without rights, and without a voice.

Please do the right thing and vote NO.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean B. Hoppe