

Thank you, Judicial committee, for taking my written testimony. My name is Brenda Mann Archiquette. I am a member of the First Nations people, Iroquois Clan, Oneida tribe of Indians. At 17, I lost my virginity when my boss drugged, then raped me. To make matters worse, I became pregnant.

My Pastor said I needed to have the child, as it was not mine, but God's. I knew deep down he was right. I decided that it was best to abort and went to the abortion clinic. The first time at the clinic, after I psyched myself up to get this done, I was told they didn't take personal checks. I went again and again, and on seven times for various reasons, I was told no and dismissed. On the 7th time, after a bomb went off at the clinic, I knew I needed to have my child and a few months later I was happily holding my baby.

To provide for my child, I took a job as a waitress. I met a music producer who asked me to do some work in the music industry. Though this man looked like a rock star, this man was pure evil. The first time I saw a man killed for looking at me, the trafficker told me after beating this man to death, "You handled that well, not like I expected, as you didn't even scream."

He beat to death 2 men for looking at me, and said he would do the same to me, if I didn't do exactly what he wanted. He forced me into trafficking, holding me hostage, he himself raping me multiple times. I became pregnant with his baby, and he was soon kicking and punching me in the stomach. I pleaded with him to stop. The six foot four monster tried to kill the baby so I would continue to be able to perform and make him money.

The behavior of this man did not go unnoticed. His lifestyle would lead to a very public arrest. One afternoon, at his suburban California home, it was surrounded by a Swat team. I heard an explosion at the front door and a SWAT team stormed in. I watched as this evil man was taken away in shackles.

With my capture now himself captured, I had to find some peace in my life, and escape my living hell. Leaving with just the clothes I wore, I got in and drove to the Midwest, where I was hoping to find my family.

I found them, and after filling my parents in with all that had happened, many tears flowed. The hardest decision was the need to break free from the evil that I had just left. The family thought if I kept the child of this second pregnancy by rape, with knowing the evil that the father was, that the tie would be forever if I had this child. After even more tears the decision to abort was made. This was one of the only times in my life I saw my father cry.

As a Christian woman, the abortion put a huge stress on me, as I knew that I had killed an innocent child. The guilt and the shame consumed me. I felt completely worthless and that my life had little value. After the abortion my life went totally downhill. Soon I was involved in a lifestyle I am not proud of. I made many poor choices. I tried to numb the pain with drugs and alcohol.

Besides these addictions, I developed various eating disorders, and led for a time a life of promiscuity from my low self-esteem. This lifestyle led to me becoming pregnant again and I had another abortion. That abortion nearly killed me. I hemorrhaged and nearly died and had to

have an emergency hysterectomy. After I physically recovered, for years I continued to grieve the loss of these children.

I may not have died on the table from the hemorrhage during the abortion, but something died inside of me in my soul and in my mind. The shame and guilt were now magnified and had me considering taking my life. I lost my desire to live and had no hope. I soon attempted suicide. I then volunteered to be institutionalized. After decades of counselling and medication for PTSD, I was labeled mentally disabled.

Besides the children whose voice is not being heard, I am speaking today on behalf of all the women who have been lied to about how an abortion will not affect them. I know from my own personal experience that the PTSD from my decision to have abortions was worse than the trauma of being trafficked. Being trafficked was not a personal choice. I was able to come to terms with that much sooner.

What I know is the effect of abortion is not just physical. The mental and emotional trauma lasts a lifetime. My guilt and shame from my own personal choices of killing my babies was harder for me to accept and forgive myself than it was to forgive myself for the lifestyle of being trafficked.

The trauma that women have after an abortion is deep and needs to be healed. The impact of taking an innocent life may not come instantaneously, but it will, and when it does these women need help. This act also has ramifications for the fathers and grandparents. Fathers also must deal with the trauma of an act against their will or being an accomplice to murder.

I am now at peace. I am here today by the mercy and grace of a loving Father. It is because of how God loves us all that I am even alive. God has forgiven me through his Son Jesus, whose death on a cross, paid the price for all my sins.

God does not make mistakes. I look at this now from the eyes of a loving God who knows all these children that are in each mother's womb that He has plans and a purpose for. As I speak before you today, God is redeeming all the hell that I went through. I can speak for the women who have been raped and have chosen life, the women who aborted, the unborn and those who are trafficked and kept to trafficking by abortion.

For those who vote for the bill HF1 and abortion, the trauma it causes women, and the blood of the innocent children is on your hands. My prayer for you is to repent for the choice you are making and may God have mercy on your souls.

Instead of adding on to the carnage that abortion causes, my hope and prayer is that you will come to your senses and vote against HF1 and abortion. To take this a step further, we should be developing intense programs for helping those women who have made the decision to abort and have already experienced the deep sorrow and regret of taking their babies life. Instead of continuing to repeat this heinous cycle, and for future generations, they need to experience a forgiveness that comes from within, after understanding the love of God through Jesus Christ.