

30/8/2018

Dear Parliament,

I am writing to you about the proposed abortion bill.

I am now 45.

My existence nearly didn't happen. My mother already had a little baby on her hands. Her body was physically exhausted from the recent birth and parenting. Her husband was off having an affair. Another pregnancy was not something she could cope with. Mentally and emotionally she was unable to face having another baby so soon.

There were strong recommendations from friends and medical people that for the sake of her health and mental state, she should have an abortion. Mum was too fragile to think straight. She was all ready to go into the clinic for the procedure. She had all the boxes ticked for "abortion eligibility".

The night before, my father told her it would be ok. Maybe cancel the abortion.

I am here today because of that decision that almost went the other way. My mother's words were, "When I held you in my arms, I was just so thankful that I did not abort you. You were so worth it. I thank God each day that I didn't"

My father's ways did not change. He eventually divorced my mother after having 4 wonderful children. Never once has my mum ever expressed regret at continuing her pregnancy. In fact, she is thankful that she was told not to go ahead with it and that she would never have forgiven herself had she done so. She shudders to think of what could have been.

I have a friend who nearly had an abortion 13 years ago. She had 2 children. Her husband left her. She was a single mum on almost no income. She tried to get an abortion but thankfully, the pregnancy hotline she rang was NOT an abortion clinic but one that encouraged her to keep the baby, and provided her with support. Today, her little saved baby is a thriving teenager. She almost committed a crime that would have left her with guilt for the rest of her life. What would she have told her sons?

Another friend found herself pregnant at the age of 16. She had her whole life ahead of her. She had dreams of marrying and having a family, having a secure house and career. She was pressured to consider abortion. She almost did. Fortunately for her, her pregnancy was too far a long and she had to continue with the pregnancy. She had her little girl. She sacrificed

much for her daughter, and today her 14 year old daughter is an amazing testimony to her mother. My friend continued onto university and is now a treasured asset in the working world.

My mother in law had an abortion before she was married. She talks about it today about her regret. She was young. She didn't know what to do. She wishes every day that she didn't take the life of an innocent baby. She has gone onto counselling hundreds of women whose lives are shattered by having had an abortion.

I am a Christian and I know that those babies that women are wanting to abort are still special beings created by God. A baby begins at conception. Not at birth. Give the young teen, or the rape victim, or the middle aged woman the support and counselling they need. Most of them would change their minds. Tell them their baby is human and special. Not a clump of cells. Give them a chance.

My daughter recently showed some aborted baby images to her friends. These girls were horrified to see that those aborted babies were actually already human, and the suffering they had to endure whilst in the womb, and to lose their lives was not . They had been led to believe it was just a mass of cells and to abort was just a procedure like cleaning your teeth.

Abortion has never solved a problem and it never will.

Kindest regards,

[Redacted]

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