

To Whom it May Concern

Re: Proposed Abortion Law Reform

I'm writing this from my own personal experience and from what I have witnessed.

1. After the birth of my second child, we discovered that he had Down Syndrome. While this came as a bit of a shock, it wasn't out of the question because we chose not to screen for Down Syndrome during my pregnancy. It was after the birth of my child that the general paediatrician questioned me as to whether I really wanted to have this child. I felt like I had to defend my baby and that he was most definitely wanted. She then proceeded to give me a very technical document stating all the risks and their percentages of things that could go wrong for a child with Down Syndrome. While I don't want to live in denial and in my own time have researched some of these things myself, this doctor clearly emphasized her own opinion of my child and what I should have done to him during my pregnancy. I have heard from other friends where it is assumed that because they had a risk of having a baby with Down Syndrome that they would abort. I can only imagine that if I didn't have such strong support during my pregnancy, the push for an abortion is pretty strong from the medical field.
2. A friend of mine when she held my baby broke down in tears as she recalled the abortion she had had about 20 years ago. She is still living with the emotional wound of that time.

I believe there is already enough pressure to quickly abort - especially if there is deemed to be something wrong with the baby. Given this new proposed abortion law, the pressure would only increase right up until the birth of the baby and if a mother is not properly informed or supported, I believe she may make the wrong decision for her and for her baby and then have the emotional wounds and scars to deal with for the rest of her life.

I strongly oppose this law not only for the unborn baby but also for women and suggest that more focus should be put on the medical field and how they can support and properly inform women and expectant mothers.

Sincerely,

Christina Rushbrook

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