

Thank you to Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Jordan for the opportunity to testify before the committee today.

My name is Allie Stuckey. I am an author, podcast host, commentator, wife and mother. I have spent the last few years of my life studying the pro-abortion movement, observing the growing radicalism of the abortion agenda and speaking out about the injustice occurring on the state and federal levels against pre-born children and their mothers.

I am here today as a mom who is determined to fight for a future for her kids in which rights are not dependent on whether a person is wanted, but upon their humanity. I am here as a woman, who believes that female empowerment, equality and freedom are not defined by her ability to terminate the life of her child. I'm here as an American, afraid for the fate of a country that no longer considers the right to life a prerequisite to liberty or the pursuit of happiness. I'm here as a human being, horrified by the violence, oppression and marginalization of a defenseless people group based solely on where they reside—in the womb.

There is no logical argument for abortion that does not also apply to people who are born. Defense of abortion based on the baby's residency in the uterus is an argument based on mere location. Defense of abortion based on the baby's age is an argument grounded in ageism. Defense of abortion based on the baby's mental or physical capacity is an argument grounded in ableism. Defense of abortion based on "wantedness" is grounded in bigotry. If these are the justifications of killing an unborn child, why stop in the womb?

Renowned bioethicist Peter Singer acknowledges the logical slope of these arguments by asserting that killing a newborn baby is justifiable if the infant is not "loved and cherished by their parents." The fact is, none of the arguments used to justify abortion is unique to pre-born babies. They therefore inevitably leave our society vulnerable to the dehumanization of not just the pre-born, but of people outside the womb as well.

We have seen this logic manifest itself in abortion-centric rhetoric and legislation. Virginia governor Ralph Northam declared earlier this year that a baby who survives an abortion would be "delivered... kept comfortable [and] resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired."

The scenario Northam depicted is one that has played out over the decades in clinics across the country. Infamously, abortionist Kermit Gosnell admitted to delivering babies and snipping their spinal cords as they were exiting the birth canal. It's difficult to imagine a more gut-wrenching scene: the life of a fully-formed, viable child, on the verge of her first breath, preparing to instinctively search for her mother, violently snuffed out.

The difference between Gosnell and abortion doctors who perform late-term abortions today is a matter of inches. Abortion provider LeRoy Carhart explained how he performs third-trimester abortions: by injecting the poison Digoxin into the baby's heart and inducing labor a few days later, so that by the time the dead, limp baby exits the mother's womb, he is like "meat in a crock-pot." Unlike Gosnell, Carhart learned that getting away with murder was possible as long as the murder occurred in the womb.

Other abortionists have found another way to stay in business: negligence. In 2005, a mother attempted to undergo an abortion at 23-weeks gestation at EPOC Clinic in Orlando, Florida, only to deliver her living, moving son in a toilet. She begged the staff to help, and they not only refused, but turned away paramedics. She cradled her son and sang to him for 11 minutes until he died.

Sycloria Williams sought an abortion in 2006. She delivered her 23-week baby at A Gyn Diagnostic Center in Hialeah, Florida. When he began breathing and moving, the owner of the clinic reportedly quickly cut the umbilical cord and sealed the child in biohazard bag, still alive. Abortion clinic owner Belkis Gonzalez cut the umbilical cord and zipped him into a biohazard bag, still alive.

When Jill Stanek, a former registered nurse, testified before the House Judiciary Committee working in the Labor and Delivery ward of Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois, she described what it was like to discover that babies who survived abortions were being placed in a utility closet to die. She said: "I was traumatized and changed forever by my experience of holding a little abortion survivor for 45 minutes until he died, a 21/22-week-old baby who had been aborted because he had Down syndrome."

These stories are particularly egregious when we consider that babies as young as 21 weeks gestation have survived outside of the womb.

Only six states require reporting of children who survive abortions. The CDC estimates that between 2003-2014, there were at least 143 babies who died after being born alive after an

abortion procedure. There is a significant probability that this number is much higher.

Governor Northam's grotesque statements, as well as the reality of cruelty toward and neglect of abortion survivors, prompted the drafting of The Born Alive Infant Survivors Protection Act, which criminalizes the failure of an abortion provider to attend to an infant abortion survivor's medical needs. The bill was blocked by 44 Democratic Senators. In the House of Representatives, Democratic leadership refused Republicans' 80+ requests to bring the bill to the floor. House Republicans are still waiting for Democrats to put the bill to a vote.

The attitude on the pro-abortion side of this debate has shifted drastically in the past two decades from "safe, legal and rare" to on-demand, through nine months, without apology. There is only one Democratic candidate for the presidency who has expressed support for any kind of restrictions on abortion. Additionally, these candidates have pledged support for overturning the Hyde Amendment, a move that would force taxpayers to fund the procedures so many of us adamantly and fundamentally oppose.

Radical state abortion legislation presented under the guise of "reproductive health" have been passed in states like New York, where it is now legal to kill a baby in the womb until the point of birth, as long as the reasoning for the abortion falls under the qualification of the "life or health" of the mother.

"Health" is defined in *Doe v. Bolton* to mean "all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age—relevant to the wellbeing of the patient." Read: for virtually any reason. As a reminder, late-term abortions are typically performed by emptying the uterus of amniotic fluid, then dismembering the baby with forceps.

In Illinois, the state legislature passed the Reproductive Health Act, which not only strips pre-born babies of all gestational ages of their legal rights, but also repeals the state's Abortion Performance Refusal Act, which protected providers and hospitals with moral objections to abortion from performing them.

This year, Virginia state legislator Kathy Tran pushed a bill that would allow abortion, per her own recorded admission, even as a mother is in labor. Tran's bill brings into focus the barbarism of lax abortion law. America is included on a list of only seven countries, including China and North Korea, to allow abortion after 20 weeks gestation, after a child inside the womb is known to feel pain.

It is true that these legislative efforts are merely codifications of *Roe v. Wade*. Indeed, the Court's decisions in *Roe, Doe v. Bolton* and *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* together effectively prevent bans on abortion in any trimester. Pro-abortion lawmakers are admittedly creating abortion protections should the Court overturn *Roe* in the future.

But the existence of these bills and laws is significant because of their representation of the growing rabidity of pro-abortion advocates to explicitly and legally dehumanize pre-born children through all 40+ weeks of pregnancy. This passion extends beyond state legislatures.

Organizations like Abortion AF, Shout Your Abortion, Advocates for Youth and the Creative Council at the Center for Reproductive Rights claim to work to “destigmatize” and “normalize” abortion to boost support for their movement. A piece published by *New York Magazine* in May titled, “Abortion Is Morally Good” argues for the full embrace of a woman’s so-called “right to choose” at every stage of pregnancy. An abortion-rights organization in Texas created an advertisement for a billboard that read, “Abortion is self-care.”

Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the country, who, according to its own reports, is responsible for ending the lives of roughly 300,000 children of the over 900,000 aborted each year. The organization recently fired their CEO, Leana Wen, because, as she explained in a *New York Times* op-ed, she “did not prioritize abortion enough.”

The nation’s leading abortion provider demonstrated again their vigor for terminating children inside the womb when they refused to comply with a new Title X rule that, according to Health and Human Services, requires entities to “financially and physically separate” Title X-funded projects and abortion services. In doing so, Planned Parenthood forfeited Title X funds, proving the essential centrality of abortion to their mission. Terminating the life of unborn children is apparently more important to Planned Parenthood than receiving funding for women’s healthcare needs.

Planned Parenthood, NARAL and the abortion industry operate under manipulation and deceit. The sanitized language of “clumps of cells” to refer to pre-born children, “reproductive freedom” to describe the dismemberment of babies in-utero and “bodily autonomy” to define the killing of babies in their mothers’ wombs belies Democrats’ claim that they are the party of science. I can think of nothing less scientific than proclaiming “my body, my choice” when abortion scientifically affects not just one body, but two.

If abortion were such a winning issue—if it were, as many claim, a moral good—its advocates would speak plainly and accurately about pregnancy, gestation and the procedures that end the life of a fetus. Instead, they choose euphemisms, knowing that delineating abortion as the tearing apart of a living, moving baby limb-by-limb with forceps isn't effective PR, and, therefore, doesn't make for a profitable business model.

Democratic Pennsylvania lawmaker Wendy Ullman made headlines recently when she described an early miscarriage as “just some mess on a napkin.” While her comment drew outrage from both sides, her rhetoric is consistent with the continued dehumanization of unborn children by pro-abortion advocates.

The obfuscation of the personhood of babies in the womb isn't the only form of deception hurled at young women by the abortion industry. Another is this: that a child will ruin her life. That she can't possibly accomplish her dreams and reach her goals if she is burdened by a baby. I happen to have a higher view of women than that.

Women who become mothers can and do finish school, have careers and thrive. Their babies haven't ruined their lives; they have enriched them. The abortion industry sells women short by manipulating them into believing that an unwanted or unexpected baby is a death wish for their futures. Women are much more capable and powerful than the pro-abortion side gives them credit for.

Yes, there are mothers who face grave challenges, whether due to their socioeconomic status, their relationship status, their immigration status or the status of their healthcare coverage. There are even racial disparities within pregnancy and birth: the CDC found that the United States's already-poor record on maternal health is especially bleak for black women, who are 3.3 times more likely to suffer a pregnancy-related death than white women. Furthermore, there are circumstances, such as cases of rape and incest, that may make continuing the pregnancy feel impossible.

These are all issues that I and other pro-lifers care deeply about. We want the best for women and their children. We are more than willing to come to the table and discuss solutions to these obstacles and travesties that don't involve pitting mothers against their babies. We simply believe that both of their lives are worth fighting for. We believe that women and children in the womb deserve better than abortion.

Abortion defenders claim pro-lifers are simply pro-birth, only caring for babies inside the womb. This is untrue. Every pregnancy center I have visited and have been a part of offers not only free ultrasounds and STD testing, but counseling, help with Medicare enrollment, parenting classes, programs that allow parents to buy low-cost baby products and clothing and even refuge and aid in circumstances of abuse. We care immensely for the woman carrying her child. We love them both.

They accuse us of wanting to control women's bodies. I can assure you I have no desire to do so. On the contrary, I want women to thrive, to command respect in whatever roles they fill, to lead in whatever spheres they occupy, to dream, to work hard, to succeed, to raise families and to honor their bodies by recognizing carrying life is a unique privilege, not a hindrance.

Abortion has taken the lives of millions of little girls since the establishment of Roe v. Wade, and it will continue to rob the futures of women and their children until we come together to discard it in the trash heap of history where it belongs.