

Testimony of Opposition to Bill H.57
Heather Peets
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The callousness and cruelty of Bill H.57 is shocking to many, but such cruelty toward the unborn is not new in Vermont. Past legislatures have refused to grant rights to the unborn or to restrict abortion. Now in fear that *Roe v. Wade* may be overturned, the co-sponsors of this bill wish to make legally explicit the evil that has been permitted by default for so long.

But Vermont doesn't have to become the home of the country's most egregious abortion legislation. There remains another option. The legislature can acknowledge the rights of the preborn. The state of Vermont can become the safest place for the fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus. Vermont can choose to live out the ideals of the Founding Fathers and preserve the inalienable right to life that has been endowed, not by any government, but by the Creator. Vermont can remind the world that all men are *created* equal, not granted equality based upon whether their mothers assert a fundamental right to birth them.

Past legislatures have done the preborn nothing but harm, but they've given you a gift. Should *Roe* be overturned, you aren't tangled in laws enforcing abortion rights. You are truly free to pave a new path—a path that will protect the innocent and weak. A path that is moral and just. Two roads diverge before you. I urge you, take the road less traveled. Take the path of life--and kill this bill.

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